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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,898

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**Spanking: the English vice**

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# A short and brutal life

**Rikki Neave: a boy abandoned**

Christopher Elliott and John Mullin

**H**E WAS born on March 4, 1988, the son of 19-year-old Ruth Greig and Trevor Harvey. He was to have three sisters, and little enough time to get to know them.

It was a nasty, brutal and short life. His naked body was discovered on November 28, 1994 in woodland close to his Peterborough home, limbs spread akimbo, outstretched like the figure in Leonardo da Vinci's drawing, Vitruvian man. He had been strangled with his anorak.

Rikki never stood a chance. Streetwise, an accomplished shoplifter, he had to help himself to food or go hungry, a boy failed by virtually everybody.

His father left when he was a toddler, and his mother married Dean Neave in November 1991. He was in prison, and she was besotted. He hated his stepson. It was mutual.

A month later, police were called by neighbours to the family's home in March, Cambridgeshire. Inspector Layton Mills found Rikki shut outside. "He was screaming on the doorstep, wearing nothing on his feet," Inspector Mills tried to question Ruth Neave. "As I grabbed her, she grabbed hold of Rikki with her left arm around his neck and tightened the grip."

This was her bear hug. She tried to discipline Rikki by making him face a wall. He would scream and hit the wall, or run away. So she would use her legs and arms to grip him. She hit him, kicked him, or grabbed his collar or throat and lifted him off the floor.

She was not charged over the Christmas 1991 incident until her son's body was found.

Then there was the time his mother dangled Rikki by his ankles over a bridge with a 15 foot drop. A bystander said she was laughing.

She admitted cruelty and was sentenced to seven years at Northampton crown court yesterday after being cleared of Rikki's murder.

The family moved in June 1992 to the notorious Welland estate in Peterborough. The Peterborough East social work team had 56 children on its at risk register, most from the estate. One was Rikki Neave.

Amanda Eaton, a neighbour, recalled Mrs Neave's approach to her son: "I saw her put her hands around his throat and lift him up against the wall. She lifted him off his feet. I saw her throw him against the settee. He cut his mouth. She made out she didn't mean to do it, but it just happened so many times. I've seen him hurt and I have seen him screaming: 'I love you. I love you'. He was scared because he was going to get hit, and hit hard."

As Mrs Neave arrived at 209 Redmile Walk, drugs were taking a hold. She blamed her husband, who walked out for the last time the Sunday before Rikki died. It was their third wedding anniversary.

She was spending £40 of her weekly £90 income on amphetamines. She would inject them, often in front of her children. Two of Rikki's sisters were also abused.

Rikki was her drugs courier. He would be sent out after midnight to find the local drug dealer with a note asking for sherbet, his mother's euphemism for amphetamines.

The beatings continued. Once, she grabbed Rikki, forced open his mouth, and filled it with washing-up liquid. He spluttered to scream: "I love you. I love you."

One social worker saw Rikki in his pyjamas wandering around with the word 'Idiot' written on his head.

Mrs Neave spelled out her attitude to Rikki in a letter to her husband. She hated and despised him. "I have had enough of Rikki. I have been up all night with Rikki running around and trying to nick food from the cupboards. I have burnt him with a match. I have punched his little face in."

This was about the time she first approached social workers for help. In April 1993, she



Rikki Neave: his mother was cleared of murdering the six-year-old but jailed for seven years for cruelty yesterday

was at the end of her tether, she explained. The case was assigned to a worker two months later. Rikki was taken into respite care for two weeks in November that year. Mrs Neave again asked for help three months later. She told Donna Betts, a family aid worker: "I want him out. If

anything happens to him, don't say I didn't warn you. Be it on your own head."

The solution: to put Rikki on the at-risk register two months later. But Linda Marshall, the relatively inexperienced social worker assigned to the case, could cope no longer with her caseload.

Debbie Lawson, with 18 years' service, took over in August 1994. Rikki had three months left. Ivan Cobley was the penultimate person to see him alive. "I said: 'What is up with you today?' He just walked around the corner with tears in his eyes."

Jennifer Boxall, Rikki's

headmistress, agrees with those who say Rikki was a problem child. He was difficult to handle. But his school likes to remember the good side too, and so there is a memorial clock to him at Welland County Primary. "We were fond of him too. He was a very lovable little boy."

'I want him out. If anything happens to him, be it on your own head. Don't say I didn't warn you.'

— Ruth Neave, right, to Donna Betts, family aide, in February 1994



**THE SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Cambridgeshire social services suspended two social workers in connection with the case and ordered a full inquiry. Ted Unsworth, social services director, said: "I believe, with hindsight, we persisted for too long with a strategy in line with the principles of the Children Act 1989, which was designed to keep the family together."

**THE GOVERNMENT**  
The Government ordered a social services hit squad into Cambridgeshire to shake up child protection procedures. A team of inspectors have been ordered to ensure that "serious weaknesses" are removed.

**THE CHARITY**  
Lessons had not been learned from earlier child abuse inquiries, said the children's charity, the NSPCC. "Individual organisations seem to find it very difficult to take on board the lessons of the tragedies of the eighties," spokesman Phillip Noyes said.

**THE JUDGE**  
Sentencing Ruth Neave to seven years in prison, Mr Justice Poplewell told her: "You are plainly an inadequate person and wholly unfit to be a mother. I have rarely come across a case of such persistent and systematic cruelty to young children."

**THE RELATIVES**  
Trevor Harvey, Rikki's father who left the family home when his son was three, threatened to sue Cambridgeshire social services. "There are hundreds of incidents going back down the years," he said. Rikki's grandfather, Maurice Harvey, said the boy stayed with him and his wife about seven months before he died. "When social services came to us after his death they didn't even know he was staying with us."



## Tax hint as Clarke ups interest rates

Larry Elliott, Richard Thomas and Michael White

**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday pinned the Government's hopes of a fifth election win on a declared policy of prudent economic management when he surprised the City and Westminster with a quarter-point rise in interest rates — and tantalisied Tory MPs with hints of budget tax cuts.

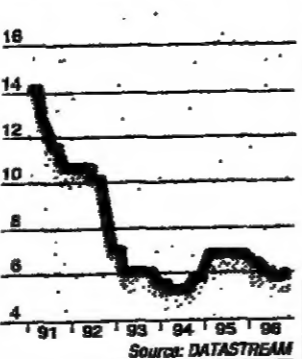
Gambling correctly that mortgage lenders would be reluctant to endanger the fledgling housing market recovery by raising the cost of home loans, the Chancellor said he was acting to "nip inflationary pressure in the bud" — and "stay ahead of the game" by taking early action.

Britain's two biggest mortgage lenders — the Halifax and the Abbey National — said they would not pass on the rise to their five million borrowers unless rates rose again.

Some City analysts saw the move as an attempt to buy off the financial markets ahead of a giveaway budget on November 26, with higher interest rates offsetting the inflationary consequences of pre-election tax cuts. Anxious Tory MPs agreed.

As Mr Clarke clashed in the Commons with his Labour shadow, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor told them his "intention is to lower taxation because we believe that is essential to the growth of the real economy. We have a government which is on course to reduce the level of spending and of taxation."

**UK base rate, %**



They were further encouraged when he repeated his commitment to a 20p basic tax rate and to eventual abolition of capital gains and inheritance taxes.

Adam Cole, UK economist at City brokers James Capel, said: "Higher base rates increase the risk that the tax giveaway in the Budget will be more generous than we previously thought — further skewing growth in the direction of consumer spending."

However, Mr Clarke strongly denied any link between yesterday's increase in base rates to 6 per cent — the first for almost two years — and his package of tax and spending measures in the Budget, which would be aimed at bringing government borrowing back under control — and nothing to do with meeting the Maastricht criteria for a single currency, he said later.

Leader comment, page 8; Industry fears Clarke rates rise ambush, City, page 11

## Rwanda warns of war with Zaire after cross-border raid

Chris McGreal in Kigali

**R**WANDA'S army chief and vice-president, Major-General Paul Kagame, yesterday warned that all-out war with Zaire was increasingly likely after Rwandan troops raided eastern Zaire in retaliation for cross-border shelling.

In the first confirmed incursion into Zaire by the Rwandan army, soldiers hit government positions in the provincial capital of Bukavu, where ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge rebels are believed close to seizing control.

Zaire accuses the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan army of supporting the rebels, who are fighting the Zairean army in eastern Zaire.

The city is in chaos and flooded with refugees. Ma-

rauding Zairean soldiers are looting whatever they can lay their hands on. Bodies litter the streets. The Red Cross is burying some of them to cut the risk of disease. The Roman Catholic archbishop of Bukavu is among the dead.

The Banyamulenge continue their advance to the south yesterday, while near the town of Goma — where the majority of Tutsi refugees from the Rwandan civil war are camped — there were renewed attacks which threatened to provoke another exodus of people.

Rwandan troops raided Bukavu in retaliation for Zairean shelling across the border in which at least three people were injured. Reuters quoted turn to page 2, column 3

Tutsis fight to head off holocaust, page 7

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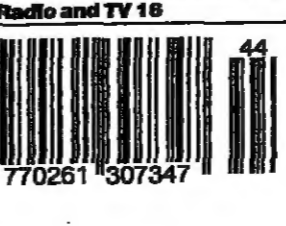
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## ZAIRE

**THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP**

In eastern Zaire, hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing for their lives. As always, the children are suffering most. Caught up in a conflict they barely understand, they desperately need food and water. If they are sick or injured, there will be no medical care during the journey. Many children will lose everything in the chaos. Even the people they love.

UNICEF is immunising children to prevent the spread of disease. Supplying food, clothing and water. And providing essential care for children who have lost their parents.

UNICEF relies entirely on voluntary contributions. The situation is critical. Just £25 would provide over 200 children with food for a month. Please send a gift to help the children of Central Africa today.

**THE CENTRAL AFRICAN CHILDREN'S APPEAL**  
0345 312312  
FOR INSTANT CREDIT CARD DONATIONS  
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS. CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATES

Please make your cheque/postal order payable to UNICEF  
 £25  £50  £75  £100 I prefer to give £  
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Please post this coupon, along with your gift to: The Central African GU1  
 Children's Appeal, UNICEF, FREEPOST,  
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 the standard banks in every support. If you would  
 like to be excluded from this, please tick box

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United Nations Children's Fund  
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Preacher of the Year competition



Poetry and passion from the pulpit... the Rev. Bernard Thomas, Father Bill Anderson, the eventual winner, and Dr Arnold Kellert in full flow at Southwark Cathedral yesterday

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN ARGLES

And lo! the words were good, but lengthy

John Ezard hears five sermons designed to banish tedium

THE seats are very hard... a woman warned as we went into Southwark Cathedral. They were, and there was worse to come yesterday.

This serial preaching drew its inspiration from Acts 18, 9-10: "... the Lord said unto Paul: Do not be afraid but keep on speaking, and do not give up."

The theme of his text was, appropriately, Christian humility. "I'm utterly astonished," said Father Anderson, a priest for 36 years. "I didn't feel it had gone well. I preached a better sermon in my bathroom this morning".

Winning message

Father Bill Anderson, 65, Preacher of the Year: "There are saints among and around us: the one who assumes the successful rival was the better candidate for a promotion post;

or who'll work with a will to the plans of others when they run contrary to his or her advice. Saints present and past illumine in great matters and small the penitential twilight."

High points: erudite and sincere Low points: speaks too fast, pads with Bible and theology texts

language of science and industry, in the land of women. Even fierier was Bernard Thomas, a Welsh-speaking Anglican from Mid-Glamorgan who wanted to resurrect the Church Militant. "The psalmist did not mince his words when he called for a sword to inflict vengeance on the nations and punish the peoples. Neither must we," he declared.

Father Anderson, however, scored by packing into his sermon 12 biblical and theological texts of a kind dear to his fellow-preachers. These are thought to have inched him ahead with two of the judges, the Bishop of Durham and the politician John Gummer, who is a lay preacher. The Bishop, Michael Turnbull, said Mr Anderson's offering "spoke to the human condition at a very significant, deep level. It contained thoughts which will stay with us". But all the sermons had been of superb quality, he said.

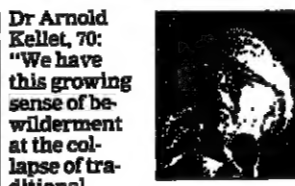
How the others rated

The Rev Bernard Thomas, 50: "Ever since the first sword was forged from iron, it has been associated with battle, murder and sudden death. Christ was crucified in a wooden manger, grew up to fashion tables, chairs, ladders, harps, died on a wooden cross. Surely, then, he blessed wood rather than iron."



The Rev Christopher Burkett, 44: "If the Lover retires too far, the light of love is extinguished and the Beloved dies; if the Lover approaches too near the Beloved, she is effaced by the love. The Lovers must leave a distance, a boundary for love. (From the philosopher Gillian Rose)

Anne Peat, 48: "It is a strange land outside our doors, a land of strange music, strange languages. How many of us knew what a bad hair day was before the recent furore? It's a land where pictures of eight babies' coffins are used to sell newspapers... but there is no place where you cannot sing the Lord's song."



Dr Arnold Kellert, 70: "We have this growing sense of bewilderment at the collapse of traditional Christian morality—the unprecedented break-up of family life, the abuse of perhaps a million children a year, the pornography, the drugs. Why, even in cathedrals you have to watch your pockets."

Outline deal for post peace

THE outline of a deal to settle the six-month pay and working practices dispute in the Post Office has already been negotiated, it emerged yesterday, after a final new mandate for further strikes.

French minister 'was KGB spy'

CHARLES HERNU, the Socialist defence minister was named as a cold war spy for eastern Europe, French intelligence officials confirmed yesterday. After documents were received from Romania in 1992, his name was also on a list of about 300 suspect French diplomats and officials given to France by British intelligence in 1993.

after 1963, when Hernu came under KGB control. Mitterrand was first told of his friend's betrayal in 1992 by the then DST chief, Jacques Fournet, who had been given documents by the Romanians. Some information was later supported by the British secret service.

Radio Times

Argos IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE PRODUCT RECALL BED GUARDS SOLD PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1995 We are repeating the product recall message issued in October 1995. In the interests of safety, and to avoid any possibility of customer concern over entrapment hazards, parents who have purchased a bed guard from Argos prior to October 1995 should return it to their nearest store for a full refund. 3ft Bed Guard 5ft Bed Guard Argos has not sold bed guards since October 1995 and will not do so until a satisfactory British Standard for bed guards has been formally adopted.



# Joint bid for combat knife ban

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**L**ABOUR and the Liberal Democrats yesterday tried to end the impasse over the banning of combat knives by combining to offer Michael Howard a solution to the problem of finding a legal definition of the weapons.

The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, and the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, Alex Carrillo, jointly submitted proposals to ban military-style knives. Mr Howard has said the Government will ban combat knives if a workable legal definition is found.

The joint letter represents an end to the search for a "narrow and precise" definition of combat knives.

It says the problem of finding a precise and workable definition is that "it will almost inevitably result in large loopholes because the prosecution will have to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the particular ob-

ject falls within the precise wording of the ban."

The two MPs advocate approaching the problem from "the other end" and ask for a ban to be instituted with exemptions granted so that there could be a "just excuse" for owning a knife. Exemptions would include knives used for particular crafts, sports, industrial or trade purposes. The courts would be able to use common sense in distinguishing between knives used for domestic purposes and other kinds.

The two politicians say that the definition of a combat knife offered by the Cutlery and Allied Trades Research Association was too narrow and would not be needed if their proposal was accepted.

Mr Straw said the Home Secretary had asked on Monday for suggestions of how new knife controls might be drafted. "There is no doubt of the strength of feeling on the issue. That is why we want a constructive dialogue with the Government to find ways to tackle the problem," he said.



Claudia Schiffer models one of Ralph Lauren's latest creations at his show in New York yesterday and (right) another instance of Lauren's new look. PHOTOGRAPHS: MOORE/HOMAS

# Lauren's new look hails from Africa

Susannah Frankel in New York on a superstar collection

**R**ALPH Lauren was the first of American fashion's superstars to show his Spring/Summer '97 collection in New York yesterday. Rather than showing at the official tents in Bryant Park, Lauren opted for the more intimate surroundings of his palatial Madison Avenue showroom.

Last season, Calvin Klein branded both Lauren and the first lady of American fashion Donna Karan "irresponsible" for abandoning the tents. But this season, Klein too is showing off-site, at the Dia Centre for Art. At a press presentation for his CK Diffusion collection earlier in the week, Klein said: "It's good to be able to walk around and actually touch the clothes."

Smaller venues with a less stadium-like atmosphere are a far better environment to see clothes, the argument now goes.

Paradise is currently the most sought after quality in fashion, and Lauren continues to pursue it to the full.

Last season even his cat-

walk was clad in the finest blonde cashmere.

This season was no less opulent. Turning to Africa for inspiration (a favourite theme: one of his best-known fragrances is called Safari), the designer sent out the longest, narrowest rainbow-striped off-the-shoulder or halterneck knits and fine suede spaghetti strap dresses and trouser suits in khaki, olive, indigo or vibrant red.

The classic Lauren safari jacket was, this time round, black or pristine white in tightly fitting stretch silk and worn with immaculately tailored straight-legged trousers or skinny split skirts. For the evening there was body-skimming ethnic print silk jersey, and, best of all, beaded column dresses. In fine gold mesh or antique bronze beads. The look was finished with rugged accessories, including studded leather belts and collars, wooden slave bracelets and basket weave straw duffel bags.

More than any other designer, it is Ralph Lauren

who is responsible for putting American fashion on the international map.

Lauren, who is 57, had no formal fashion training. Instead, he took night courses in business studies before working his way up the fashion ladder, variously as a sales assistant, a glove company salesman and a New York representative for a Boston manufacturer.

He started designing his own ties, under the name Polo, for the American label Beau Brummel in 1967. A year later he expanded into menswear, and by 1973 he was designing a womenswear collection too.

As well as his main lines, Lauren now also produces diffusion collections for men and women and of course menswear, and by 1973 he was designing a womenswear collection too.

It was as long ago as 1981 that he opened his international flagship store in London. In January 1993, Lauren takes up residence in a Superstore at number one Bond Street — surely the most prestigious address in the A-Z.

# BMA in bid to have boxing ruled out for the count

John Duncan  
Sports Correspondent

**T**HE British Medical Association yesterday launched a 60-second anti-boxing advert to be screened in cinemas, as part of what it claims will be its biggest campaign against the sport.

The commercial — shot in black and white and featuring two conkers banging against each other, which turn into human brains — coincides with two big matches next month.

Mike Tyson is set to fight Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas, and Nigel Benn is scheduled to meet Steve Collins in Manchester.

"Our aim is to win over public opinion so that boxing in this country is banned," said BMA spokesman Nigel Duncan, who negotiated free production and distribution of the film.

"Parliament will have to take the decision in the end, and will have to do it as a result of public pressure."

There have been five failed attempts to introduce

anti-boxing legislation with private members' bills since 1981. The last, introduced by Lord Taylor of Gryfe and intended to ban boxing for profit, was defeated by just one vote in the Lords last December.

In the past three years, six boxers have been seriously injured in the ring and two have died.

However, Dr Adrian Whetton OBE, the chief medical officer of the British Boxing Board of Control, hit back at the BMA.

"This is just the last desperate throw of an organi-

sation who have lost all the arguments and embarrassed themselves over years producing false statistics to back up an argument that just doesn't hold water."

"In all contact sports, people can get hurt. Last weekend a rugby player tragically lost his life, but the BMA don't try to have rugby banned. One of our top jockeys has just come back from horrific injuries, but they don't campaign against that."

"One government agency survey showed that in a given period of 480 people who died taking part in sport only two were boxers. As long as the boxers know the risks, and do what we tell them regarding their health, it is a question of two adult males making a choice to do something and that is their business."

The latest Office of National Statistics survey shows that in 1992 there were 67 deaths associated with sporting and leisure activity but no boxing deaths are listed for the year. The BBC further strengthened their safety

and medical procedures after the death of James Murray in the ring a year ago.

But the BMA made no apologies for the advert, which they hope will show in 100 cinemas over the next two months. "We support the measures that have been taken to try and limit the head injuries to boxers," said Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA council. "But these have not and cannot eliminate the deliberate injury that boxers try to inflict on each other."

# Last day of whine for the Roses

Des Gribster  
Arts Correspondent

**I**T'S official: the "baggy" scene is dead. The Stone Roses, one of the founders of the "Manchester" pop scene, announced yesterday that they have split.

The group's vocalist, Ian Brown, said: "Having spent the last 10 years in the filthiest business in the universe, it's a pleasure to announce the end of the Stone Roses."

The group only produced two albums and their second, *The Second Coming*, took five years to record. One critic noted on its release that it sounded as if it had been recorded in a weekend.

The band formed in Manchester in 1983, gaining huge acclaim for their eponymous debut album. They were credited with revolutionising British rock with their guitar pop-meets-dance music sound, but by the time of *The Second Coming*, in December 1994, their place as the new Beatles had been taken by Oasis.

The decision to split is a blow to Geffen Records, who signed the Stone Roses in 1991 after a court case to release the group from their contract with Silver-Tone Records.

Geffen signed the Stone Roses for a multi-million

pound figure with the promise of a new album within a year.

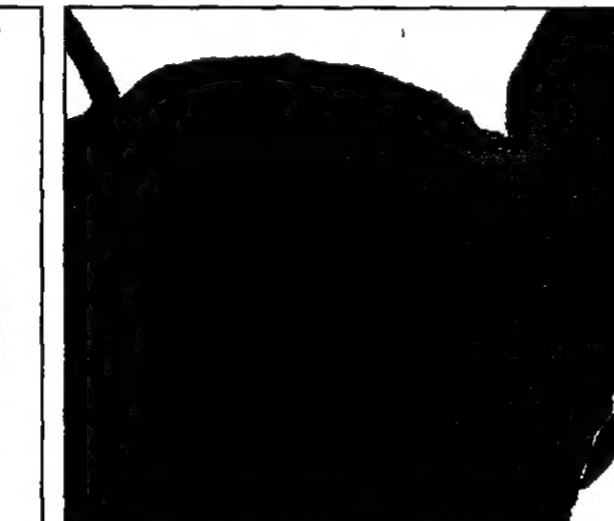
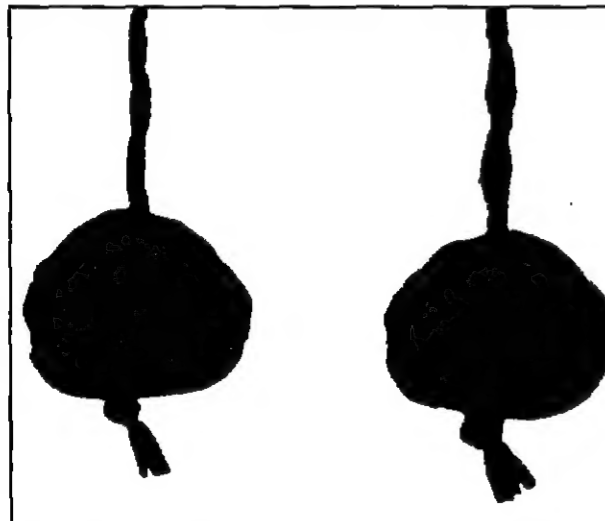
When it was finally released — five years later — musical fashion had moved on and the band had become increasingly reclusive.

Anthony Wilson, head of Manchester's Factory Records, said: "The fact that the Roses did not achieve anything like they should have done, and then stick two fingers up to the rest of the world, is so typical of Manchester."

"I would say an anarchic attitude is a hallmark of the city's music makers. In a way, the Roses splitting up is almost funny. Sad but funny."



Stone Roses vocalist Ian Brown announced the split



Boxing clever... Stills from the BMA's anti-boxing commercial which shows conkers bashing into each other and then turning into human brains before falling to the ground

# Couple 'caught by chance' in daring £10m cheque fraud

**A** COUPLE were in jail last night facing a "substantial period of imprisonment" after being convicted of an elaborate £10 million plot involving the only cheque ever to have been stolen from the Bank of England.

Business consultant Peter Garnett and his accountant wife Linda came close to pulling off the daring conspiracy, which shook the 302-year-old financial institution to its core.

Their arrest sparked a major investigation by bank officials, and also revealed years of lavish living the couple had enjoyed, thanks largely to another swindle by Mrs Garnett.

The pair showed no emotion as the jury at London's Middlesex Guildhall crown court found them guilty of conspiring to defraud with others unknown between January and December 1984 — an offence for which they could be jailed for up to 10 years in jail when they are sentenced on November 23.

Mrs Garnett, 52, will also be dealt with then for siphoning more than £73,000 from the St. Ives, Leicestershire, veterinary practice where she worked. Details of the 15 thefts she admitted, which involved "cooking the books", were revealed to the jury only after it convicted her on the Bank of England charge.

The court heard her thefts paid for a luxury Caribbean cruise, during which former publican Mr Garnett, 54, posed as a doctor to ensure the privilege of dining with the liner captain.

It also enabled the Garnetts to enjoy many other first class foreign holidays, including two to New York to celebrate two of her birthdays, several in Tenerife and one in Florida.

The pair, from Southwark, south London, also ran three cars — a Rolls-Royce, Mer-

cedes and Jaguar — had two homes next door to each other in Nottingham, a £160,000 Docklands flat and a three-share apartment in Miami.

Remanding them in custody for reports, Judge Kenneth Zucker QC told them it was almost inevitable they would get a "substantial period of imprisonment". He also called for Nottingham city council to investigate housing benefit Mr Garnett, 54, a former publican, had claimed for a house his wife owned in the city by using her maiden name to call her husband.

Told by defence barrister Richard Soles that an investigation had already cleared his clients of impropriety in that matter, the judge said another inquiry should now be carried out in the light of the evidence heard during the case.

This prompted Mrs Garnett to turn to journalists in court and say: "Oh shit."

The week-long trial heard the theft of a cheque from the Bank of England only came to light when Mr Garnett paid it into his wife's Midland Bank

business account in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Drawn on the Nationwide building society's Treasury account for £27 million, it had been stolen from a chequebook kept at the Bank of England to purchase certificates of deposit, and bore two expertly forged signatures of bank officials.

The Garnetts would probably have got away with it but for a "marker" which, unknown to them, Midland staff had placed on their account. It had been put there as a reminder to be on the lookout for possible suspicious transactions involving the account, after an attempt to telegraphically transfer a fraudulent £246,000 cheque to it a few weeks earlier.

As Mr Garnett left the bank believing he had become a multi-millionaire, inquiries were already being made with the Bank of England — where staff soon found the cheque had been stolen. Three days later, when Mr Garnett returned to the Grantham branch to withdraw £50,000,

police were waiting to arrest him.

Brendan Finucan, prosecuting, said as far as anyone knew it was the only cheque ever stolen from the City institution, but extensive inquiries had not uncovered the Threemilestone Street thief.

Mrs Garnett, who was arrested at work shortly afterwards, refused to answer questions and did not give evidence during her trial. However, her husband did and denied any wrongdoing — claiming he acted on the instructions of a gold-toothed Armenian businessman in connection with the purchase of a multi-million pound Tenerife property portfolio for the Nationwide.

Mr Garnett also maintained that the mystery man, whom he had no means of contacting, simply handed him the Bank of England cheque on the concourse of King's Cross station in London.

But Mr Finucan said that version of events was "so ridiculous" it could not possibly be true.

# Headlice lotion 'linked to Gulf war syndrome'

Lib Dem MP urges ban on 'dangerous' flea products

David Fairhall

**D**ANGEROUS chemicals suspected as a cause of the mysterious Gulf war syndrome are also present in everyday treatments for children with headlice and flea-ridden pets, the Liberal Democrat MP Paul Tyler warned last night in calling for a ban on such products.

Scientists claim to have found links between pesticides and chronic fatigue syndrome, formerly known as ME, according to findings reported on BBC's Here and Now programme.

Mr Tyler, MP for Cornwall North, whose concern about organo-phosphate (OP) pesticides stemmed originally from their harmful effect on farmers using sheep dips, was scheduled to open an adjournment debate in which he challenged the Government to reverse its present policy.

Instead of allowing OPs to be widely used until long-term research conclusively proves them unsafe, he argued, they should be withdrawn until they can be proved completely safe.

Mr Tyler warned parents that some lotions used to treat headlice in children contain malathion, the first OP the Ministry of Defence admitted using in the Gulf war — in that case to delouse Iraqi prisoners of war. Another chemical also known to have been used by British troops, diazinon, is extensively used to control fleas in pets.

Hundreds of British veterans of the Gulf war are seeking compensation from the MOD for illnesses they believe can be traced back to their service in the desert. In 1994/5, symptoms include chronic fatigue, muscle pains and memory loss, and are in many cases similar to those found in farmers using OP sheep dips.

The MOD has recently admitted that OPs were almost certainly one cause of Gulf war syndrome and is urgently re-checking its medical records to assess the scale of the problem.

Mr Tyler is also concerned at the possible connection — acknowledged, he says, by the EU commissioner for agriculture — between Britain's use of OPs to treat warble fly in cattle and the subsequent epidemic of BSE. It was a remarkable coincidence, he said, that countries which used OPs in this way during the 1990s should suffer from BSE while others escaped.

OPs used on farms and in household products like flea spray appear to cause similar changes in the brain as chronic fatigue syndrome, according to research carried out by Peter Behan, professor of neurology at Glasgow University.

According to Here and Now, there is anecdotal evidence of household products like flea spray and head lice treatment containing the chemicals also causing harm.

One woman described how her four-year-old daughter suffered hallucinations and personality changes after being treated for head lice with an OP.

Another woman was said to have been struck down with chronic fatigue three years after using a flea spray to treat carpets in her home.

# Digital Terrestrial Television Advertisement of Multiplex Licences

The Independent Television Commission (ITC) is inviting applications for four licences to provide digital terrestrial television multiplex services. The licences are for those multiplexes other than the two which will carry the services of the BBC, Channels 3 and 4 and Teletext Ltd.

The licences, if granted, will be for a term of 12 years and will be awarded in accordance with the terms of the Broadcasting Act 1996.

Licencees will be authorised to broadcast those digital programme services and digital additional services which are themselves separately licensed. In the case of Multiplex A some capacity is reserved for Channel 5 and S4C Digital services. Services will be expected to be on-air, subject to international frequency clearances, not later than 1 July 1998.

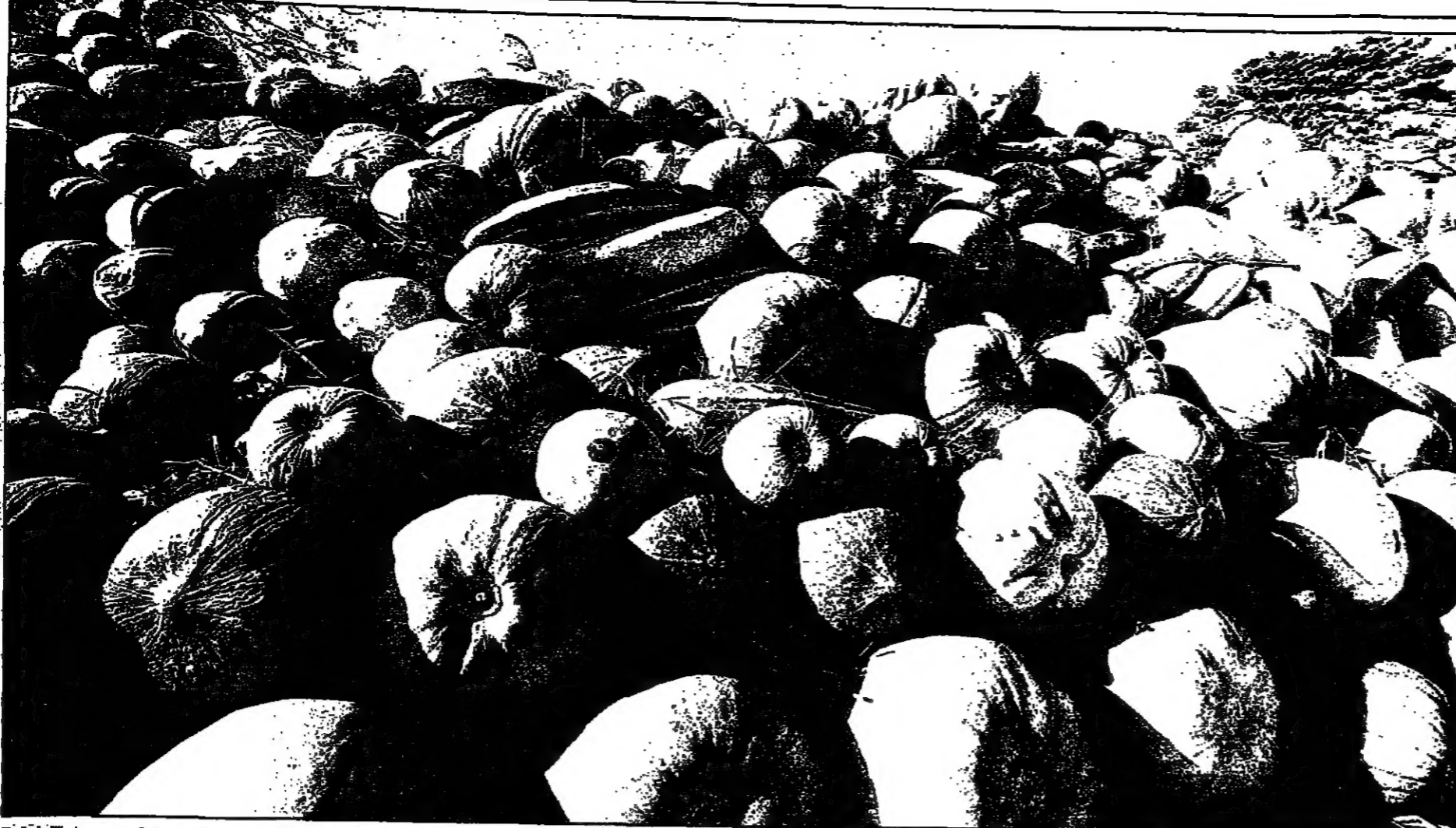
The Invitation to Apply specifying the terms and conditions relating to the provision of digital terrestrial television multiplex services together with a draft licence, and supplementary documents including Guidance Notes for applicants for digital programme and digital additional services licences, is available from the Secretary to the Independent Television Commission, 33 Foley Street, London, W1P 7LB.

Applications addressed to the Secretary to the Commission giving information in the form specified in the Invitation to Apply document, together with the application fee of £100,000, should reach the ITC not later than noon on 31 January 1997.



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Ralph Upton, aged 74, with some of the 10,000 pumpkins he has grown at Slindon, West Sussex, for Halloween. He has been growing pumpkins for more than 30 years. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BARNER

# Ex-soldiers to sue army over bullying

David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

THE ARMY has come under fire for failing to stamp out persistent bullying, which it admits should no longer be tolerated. Writs will be served on the Ministry of Defence today on behalf of eight former soldiers seeking compensation of at least £100,000 each after claims of beatings and sexual abuse. Most of the allegations centre on the Royal Welch Fusiliers training depot at Whittington barracks, Staffordshire. But the men's solicitor, Robert Peterson, of Newport, Gwent, said that as he investigated early cases, other ex-soldiers from different regiments came forward with similar complaints. Five other writs had been issued

and investigations were continuing. "Some of these men are having extreme difficulty following their disturbing experiences in the army," said Mr Peterson. "We have begun High Court proceedings in the hope that the Ministry of Defence will recognise they must be compensated for mental and physical scars." The allegations date back to the early 1990s. An officer and a corporal were disciplined at a court martial, but victims have never received any compensation. Bullying has always been part of army life, especially at recruit training depots. In recent years the authorities have tried to tackle the problem, along with racial abuse and sexual discrimination. Last year a former army officer, Alastair Green, was awarded £750 at the High

Court in London after alleging he was subjected to humiliations — including being strapped naked to a ceremonial cannon — which led to a mental breakdown. Statistics show a more hopeful picture. According to army sources, the military police dealt with 30 substantiated cases of "discrimination, bullying and intimidation" in 1997, but by last year the number had fallen to less than 20. In the introduction to army guidelines issued last January, General Sir Michael Rose, the former United Nations commander in Bosnia now responsible for personnel matters as adjutant general, said: "There can be no place for harassment, bullying and discrimination, which will affect morale and break down the trust and cohesiveness of the group."

# Thatcher 'acted like schoolmarm' at EU

Michael White, Political Editor

A DANISH elder statesman yesterday launched an unprovoked attack on the legendary reputation of Margaret Thatcher as a less-than-reticent negotiator in the European Union. She behaved like a schoolmistress at European summits, according to Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Denmark's former foreign minister. Euro-colleagues from Helmut Kohl downwards have reached similar conclusions, not least the late Francois Mitterrand of France. "Margaret the Terrible" did not like to be contradicted and could ruin the convivial atmosphere of the

twice yearly European Councils with her "wounding and sarcastic manner and obvious insensitivity", said Mr Ellemann-Jensen. At one Brussels summit her strident voice was heard saying: "What are you doing? You are not trying to weaken my formula, are you?" He and his colleagues "jumped to attention like schoolchildren saying we had done nothing." Lady Thatcher then "fixed us with a cold stare and said, 'Hmmm, I doubt it. I don't trust men. Men are weak,'" recalled Mr Ellemann-Jensen. Whether he ever realised that the best response to Lady Thatcher was to argue back was not clear. But it proved the key to survival in the Cabinet of such critics as James Prior and

Peter Walker, while a private row with one of her junior whips — John Major — in the mid-90s was the making of him. Chancellor Kohl's recent memoirs make plain his impatience with her hectoring. But, although horrified by Lady Thatcher's frequent references to wanting "my money back" during negotiations over EU rebates, the womanising President Mitterrand reached the famous judgment that she had "the eyes of Caligula and the mouth of Marilyn Monroe." "Patience is not one of my obvious virtues," she announced in 1979, only six months after she had come to power. And, as a school friend in Grantham once put it, she had "an irritating sense of her own superiority."

## News in brief

### Party leaders back two-minute silence

JOHN Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown have joined forces to back the call for a nationwide two-minute silence at 11am on Armistice Day, November 11, when large sections of Britain will come to a halt to pay tribute to the sacrifice of the nation's war dead and injured. Schools, colleges, shops, businesses and the broadcast media are among thousands of organisations that will stop. Mr Major said he strongly supported the idea that the country should pause to remember for two minutes that morning. He would observe the silence, probably in his Downing Street office. "On Remembrance Sunday every year, the nation rightly gathers in remembrance at the Cenotaph, at war memorials throughout the UK and abroad and indeed more privately," Mr Major said. Mr Blair said: "We owe a great debt to our fellow countrymen and women who gave their lives in two world wars so that succeeding generations could live in freedom."

### British student jailed in US

A BRITISH exchange student has been jailed in the US for one year for "betraying US hospitality" by defrauding two banks and a computer company of \$139,000 (about £87,000). Neil Mistry, aged 25, of Middlesex, was sentenced after pleading guilty before a judge who said he found Mistry's betrayal of US hospitality "utterly reprehensible". Mistry was a computer engineering student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts, for a year. The indictment said he devised and implemented a scheme to defraud Fleet and Shawmut banks and EMC2, where he worked briefly. He was ordered to pay full restitution before he is released and deported.

### Man killed during prank

A FATHER of two was killed while placing penny coins on the railway track to flatten them, an inquest in Northumberland was told yesterday. Bruce Darling, aged 25, was hit full on by an InterCity train travelling at 110mph during the prank at Cramlington station in Northumberland. He had been drinking with friends in a shelter on the platform. He leaves a widow and two children aged six and four. A spokesman for British Transport Police said: "I thought this game of placing pennies on the line had died out but it still crops up occasionally. It is anything but a harmless prank as this death proves." A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

### 'Lost' painting to be sold

A PAINTING "lost" for 80 years is to be sold at auction at Sotheby's on Wednesday. It is expected to fetch up to £180,000. The work by the Victorian artist Frederic Lord Leighton, was rediscovered in East Anglia during a routine probate valuation of an estate. The picture, entitled Cleobulus Instructing his Daughter Cleobuline, is the missing one of three paintings which Leighton exhibited at the 1871 Royal Academy summer exhibition.

### £2m prize unclaimed

THE countdown has begun for the largest unclaimed lottery prize to be picked up by its rightful winner. Just 21 days remain for the owner of a ticket bought in Hull on May 25 to claim the jackpot prize of £2,054,764. If he does not come forward by 11pm on November 21, the cash, and interest, will be handed over to the five good causes. The winning numbers for that draw were 8, 26, 42, 20, 34, 43 with a 25 bonus ball. So far £28,561,197 has been handed over to the good causes in unclaimed prize money.

### Fewer cot deaths

COT deaths fell last year to a new low of 0.6 per thousand live births, compared with 0.7 in 1994. There were 386 such deaths in England and Wales, according to provisional official figures. The rate has fallen from 2.3 a thousand in 1988. — David Brindle

# Official visit reflects campaign to end embargo Buenos Aires makes new diplomatic push

David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

THE first official visit to Britain since the Falklands war by a member of Argentina's military high command begins this weekend as part of a diplomatic campaign which Buenos Aires hopes will lead to the lifting of the 14-year British arms embargo. The visit by Lieutenant General Martin Antonio Saiza, chief of the Argentine army's general staff, comes only days after the disclosure that Whitehall has already secretly "reassessed" the embargo to allow Rolls Royce to supply spare parts for the Argentine navy's warships. The general is not coming formally to negotiate further relaxation of the ban. But in meetings with MPs, including

the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, he will argue that relations have so improved that an embargo no longer makes sense. Reports that Argentina's readiness to co-operate in the joint development of the Falklands offshore oil was linked to renewed arms sales have been strenuously denied by London and Buenos Aires. Argentinian diplomatic sources insist that each aspect of the improving relations between the two countries — financial investment, oil exploration, fisheries development and military "confidence building" — is being treated separately. The fact remains that lifting what remains of the embargo, allowing the Argentine navy in particular to re-establish traditional pre-war links with its British counterpart, General Sir Charles Guthrie, is the next major Argentinian

objective. In spite of the ban, Argentina's Rolls Royce-powered destroyers are evidently getting enough spares. Besides, there is little money in the defence budget for new equipment. General Malva was an artillery commander during the Falklands campaign and spent some time as a prisoner of the British forces. His official visit is the latest step in a programme of "normalisation" between the two countries' armed forces that began in 1990. It has included joint United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and a visit to Buenos Aires last year by the Antarctic survey ship HMS Endeavour. The Argentine chief of staff will spend three days in the UK, and will meet his British counterpart, General Sir Charles Guthrie.



Nat and Georgia Simpson in Brookside: the Broadcasting Standards Council rebuked Channel 4 for glamorising incest

# Rebuke for Brookside incest

Andrew Cuff, Media Correspondent

CHANNEL 4 received a fresh rebuke yesterday from a television watchdog for glamorising incest in Brookside. The Broadcasting Standards Council said incest was a subject that had to be treated with care and sensitivity and the programme had failed to do this. Last week the Independent Television Commission ordered Channel 4 to broadcast an apology for showing brother and sister Nat and Georgia Simpson cuddling in bed in Brookside's Saturday teatime omnibus. The council, chaired by Lady Howe, went further, de-

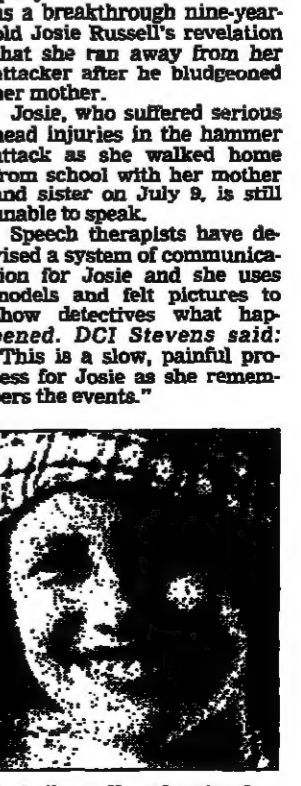
scribing both the 8pm weekday and 9pm omnibus slots as "inappropriate". The council acknowledged the role soaps could play in dealing with difficult social issues, but its members had been troubled by "the absence of any insight into the motivation of the characters to behave as they did". It also criticised the use of attractive role models, actors John Sandford and Helen Grace. Forty viewers had complained about a kiss and bedroom scenes between the couple. Some said it was wrong to include a storyline which might encourage imitation before the 9pm adult viewing watershed. Brookside producer Mal

Young defended the storyline, saying it dealt with "the last taboo". Channel 4, in a statement to the council, said the series had a valuable role in bringing "untouchable" subjects to wider audiences. Stories on drugs and date rape — and the incest story — had received a positive response from viewers and agencies working in these sensitive areas. "Everything about their liaison, including the lead-up to it, was portrayed as angsty, inducing, furtive and wrong," Channel 4 said. The tragic consequences of the relationship would continue to be explored. BBC's Airport was criticised by the council for voyeuristic treatment of an el-

# 'Handful' of dual killing suspects left

THE DETECTIVE leading the hunt for the killer of Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan said yesterday that he believed officers had already interviewed the murderer. Detective Chief Inspector Dave Stevens said they were narrowing down the list of suspects and were looking at a "handful" of local people who had been questioned about the killings. DCI Stevens said: "I believe we have probably already spoken to the person responsible. But we do have over 5,000 people on our database, whom we have questioned, and it is a matter of narrowing those down." Mr Stevens said there was a possibility the killer could be a paedophile or someone suffering from psychosis. "This is a man who does not want to be caught. There was a degree of planning to the murders and he has gone to some lengths to hide his identity." Detectives leading the inquiry into the murders hailed as a breakthrough nine-year-old Josie Russell's revelation that she ran away from her attacker after he bludgeoned her mother. Josie, who suffered serious head injuries in the hammer attack as she walked home from school with her mother and sister on July 8, is still unable to speak. Speech therapists have devised a system of communication for Josie and she uses models and felt pictures to show detectives what happened. DCI Stevens said: "This is a slow, painful process for Josie as she remembers the events."

Speech therapists have devised a system of communication for Josie and she uses models and felt pictures to show detectives what happened. DCI Stevens said: "This is a slow, painful process for Josie as she remembers the events."



Josie Russell — the attack left her unable to speak

# GPs spurn Labour plan to abolish fundholding

## Smith under pressure as only 1 in 5 backs change

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

BARELY one in five fundholding family doctors thinks Labour's plans to replace the system are acceptable, a survey of more than 1,300 general practices indicated yesterday. The finding increases pressure on Chris Smith, Labour's shadow health secretary, to water down the party's plans to abolish fundholding. He is due today to address the annual conference of fundholding doctors in Harrogate. The survey results follow a call by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the influential left-of-centre think tank, for Labour to put on hold its

threat to scrap fundholding and to ensure successful fundholders are "left alone". Labour aims to replace fundholding, by which some GPs buy hospital and community health care for their patients, with a system of local commissioning involving all GPs and other health professionals in decisions on the way NHS cash is spent. The survey, the biggest of its kind, was carried out by the National Association of Fundholding Practices among 1,326 of its member practices. Asked if they saw local commissioning as a satisfactory alternative to fundholding, 22 per cent said yes and 71 per cent said no. Asked if they would accept pressure from their locality or health authority to be more economical

to keep within a common budget, 22 per cent said yes and 69 per cent said no. Asked if they would prefer a practice-based budget, making their own decisions on how to stay within it, 69 per cent said yes and 16 per cent no. The survey also found that 87 per cent of the fundholders had bought in new services for their patients, such as counselling, physiotherapy and chiropody. Forty-two per cent were running consultant out-patient clinics at their surgeries. Dr Rhidian Morris, NAFP chairman, said the findings were an emphatic endorsement of fundholding. "We want a simple answer from Chris Smith: will fundholding stay or will it go under a Labour government?" A spokeswoman for Mr Smith said he did not intend to make any definitive announcements at the NAFP conference.

new look Africa  
day of white  
the Roses  
etc



Politicians of all hues welcome bill on corruption

# Italian bribe saga draws to a close

John Hooper in Rome

ITALY'S centre-left government let it be known yesterday that it intended bringing down the curtain on the melodrama known as Tangentopoli (Bribesville).

Giovanni Maria Flick, the justice minister, said he would be tabling a bill before the end of the year to enable all those accused of corruption to escape prison. His proposal was warmly welcomed by politicians of the left and right.

Romano Prodi, the prime minister, said: "We believe that Tangentopoli ought to be got away from." But, in a television interview last night, he questioned whether the parliamentary timetable would allow the bill to be debated as speedily as Mr Flick wanted.

It is just over three-and-a-half years since prosecutors in Milan began exposing the system of bribes that drives Italian party politics. As a result, the country's longest-serving post-war prime minister, the Socialist Bettino Craxi, has fled into exile in Tunisia and the careers of hundreds of other politicians have been destroyed.

But, in several important respects, the effects of Tangentopoli have been negligible. Only one man convicted of corruption has been sent to jail after, rather than before, his trial. Little has been done to dismantle the network of patronage that underpins the graft. And, above all, there has been no reform of party funding, whose inadequacies originally inspired it.

A report on corruption prepared for the leader of the lower house of parliament and leaked yesterday said: "The scandals and trials merely made the kickbacks riskier and thus more conspicuous. The corruption more sophisticated and the struggle against corruption more difficult."

This view has been used by some on the centre-left as a reason for ending the crusade against corruption in the courts. Critics of the government have insinuated that it has other motives.

The dominant party in the ruling Olive Tree coalition is the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), whose funding methods were under investigation by prosecutors before last April's general election. In recent weeks, moreover, the PDS has been trying to reach an understanding on institutional reform with the opposition, whose leader, Silvio Berlusconi, is on trial for corruption.

In an interview with the

newspaper La Repubblica, Mr Flick, made no secret of the fact that his plans for a "political solution" to Tangentopoli paralleled the former communists' attempts to woo the right. "I am trying to do the same in the field of justice," he said.

Mr Flick who, as a lawyer, acted for the defence in a number of corruption cases, said he favoured "broader plea bargaining". But he added that those convicted would be banned from holding public office and made to repay what they had stolen.

His pledges were scoffed at by a leader of the hardline Communist Refoundation. "It is very well-known that it is impossible to put into practice the repayment of illicit gains and the ban on office-holding," said Tullio Ginaldi.

But Pietro Folena, the PDS justice spokesman, said Mr Flick's solution was "excellent". Such moderate and balanced policies were "what had allowed the Olive Tree to win the election," he added.

Mr Berlusconi's followers, who were vilified by the centre-left for trying to muzzle the anti-corruption prosecutors, reacted with delight and wry irony. The former junior justice minister, Domenico Costabile, noted the similarities with a proposal he made two years ago.



# Kohl fights to keep sceptic Germans on the euro train

Ian Traynor in Bonn

THE German government sought yesterday to shrug off criticism from economic experts, the opposition and its own supporters in the media over a deepening budget crisis, and tried to mobilise support for the single European currency.

Responding to criticism of his fiscal policies by Germany's six leading economic thinktanks, the embattled finance minister, Theo Waigel, told an emergency session of parliament that Germany would meet the terms for a single currency next year.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) launched a propaganda campaign for the single currency, pledging that the criteria would be met next year and the euro launched on schedule in 1999. The party dismissed the thinktanks' prediction that in 1997 Germany would fail the single currency test on the budget deficit and state debt levels.

Yesterday's emergency budget debate followed two weeks of mounting disarray in the coalition cabinet over tax increases and gaping holes in the budgetary projections.

The pro-government conservative newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine delivered a damning indictment of Mr Waigel, saying Germany faced "an economic and social crisis".

The newspaper's verdict was less than generous to Mr Kohl, who today becomes Germany's longest-serving post-war chancellor. "The economy in western Germany is staggering under the burden of dealing with the east. The east is turning into the most expensive disaster of the post-war era. Germany remains a high-tax country with mass unemployment and without the justification to enter monetary union."

Joschka Fischer, the leader of the Greens, rubbed salt into Mr Waigel's wounds, accusing him of inactivity, and of stumbling from one budget gap to the next. Mr Waigel tried to blame the opposition, which blocked some proposed spending cuts in the upper house. But the general perception is that the buck stops with Mr Kohl.

On Tuesday, a joint report by the six economic thinktanks said there was neither rhyme nor reason to Mr Waigel's policy, that the government's credibility was suffer-

ing and that public resentment of monetary union could grow.

Earlier this year Mr Kohl pledged to halve the record unemployment of about 4 million by the end of the century. Last week, he conceded this was not possible, and the thinktanks forecast increased unemployment next year.

To try to meet the single currency terms, the government has just reversed a promised tax cut, and more spending cuts are in the offing to plug the hole in next year's budget. Mr Waigel estimates the shortfall at DM4 billion (€1.7 billion), but the thinktanks put the figure at DM15 billion.

Seemingly unfazed, Peter Hintze, the CDU general secretary, launched the campaign to persuade Germans of the merits of the single currency. "Germany will fulfil the criteria. The European train will leave on schedule... The euro will be as hard and as strong as the mark."

Mr Waigel insisted next year's public sector borrowing requirement would not exceed the projected DM56.5 billion which would bring the budget deficit under the 3 per cent ceiling required for the single currency.

# Tight race in Romanian presidential poll

ROMANIA'S former prime minister, Petre Roman, above, waves to supporters in Bucharest yesterday at the end of his electoral campaign to oust President Ion Iliescu in Sunday's poll. He made an impassioned plea to vote against Mr

Iliescu, in the square where both men led the 1989 anti-communist revolt. Opinion polls put Mr Roman, the country's first post-communist prime minister, in third place in the increasingly tight presidential race, behind Mr Iliescu, a former communist, and

Emil Constantinescu, an academic. Mr Roman told thousands of supporters that Revolution Square, where Nicolae Ceausescu last appeared before his capture and execution, was a sacred place for him. — Reuters.

## World news in brief

### 'Cover up' of Gulf war nerve gas exposure

THE CIA and the Pentagon, reportedly attempted to cover up an investigation revealing overwhelming evidence that tens of thousands of United States troops were exposed to Iraqi chemical weapons during the Gulf war, two former CIA analysts have claimed.

The accusation comes a day before the Pentagon sends out letters to 20,000 Gulf war veterans, informing them that they may have come into contact with chemical agents after the bombing of an Iraqi ammunition dump during the war.

The analysts, a husband and wife team, say they disclosed about 60 incidents where US troops may have come into contact with nerve gas and other chemical weapons. Attempts to pursue their unsubstantiated inquiry were obstructed by senior Pentagon figures, and top CIA officials including the agency's director, John Deutch, voiced concern about their findings, the couple told the New York Times. The CIA denied accusations of a cover-up. — Gary Younge, Washington.

### Apartheid killer jailed for life

EUGENE de Kock, the South African state assassin known to his colleagues as Prime Evil, was jailed for life yesterday by a judge who called his crimes "chilling and calculated". In the 1980s and early 1990s De Kock, a colonel in the security police, tortured and murdered those he considered enemies of the apartheid state.

Sitting in Pretoria, Supreme Court Justice Willem van der Merwe handed down 21½ years and two life sentences to the meticulous, bespectacled man slumped in the dock. In August De Kock was convicted of six murders, two charges of conspiracy to commit murder and 81 lesser offences ranging from fraud to illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

One of the life sentences was for the murder of an African National Congress activist's brother, Zwellibazi Nyanda. De Kock, who received a medal for the incident, shot and killed Nyanda when he ran from a house that De Kock's hit-squad had just attacked.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, indicated that it may be prepared to reduce the sentence if De Kock names his bosses. However, Archbishop Tutu said, amnesty was not an option for some of De Kock's crimes. — Ruzhith Nicolai, Pretoria.

### Drug baron fined £67m

GILBERTO Rodriguez Orejuela, the jailed kingpin of Colombia's Cali drug cartel, has agreed to pay a \$67 million fine — the biggest ever in Colombia — in a plea-bargain deal that could lead to his early release, judicial officials said.

Rodriguez, a reputed billionaire, agreed to pay the fine on confessing to the drug-related charge of illicit enrichment in day-long testimony to a "backless" or anonymous judge. A spokesman for the chief prosecutor, Alfonso Valdivieso, said Rodriguez had also confessed to 19 counts of fraud stemming from his use of bank accounts to handle the illicit proceeds of his drug empire.

He confessed to using some of those accounts to finance electoral campaigns in Colombia. The Cali cartel has been accused of providing about \$4 million in contributions to the 1994 campaign of President Ernesto Samper. Earlier this year, the Colombian congress cleared Mr Samper of any wrongdoing in relation to his campaign finances. In a trial dismissed by many critics as a whitewash. — Reuters, Bogotá.

### Rao charged with vote-buying

INDIAN federal police indicted the former prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, yesterday in a vote-buying case, hours after he made an unprecedented appearance in a heavily guarded makeshift trial court on criminal forgery charges.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it had charged Mr Rao with conspiring to pay legislators from a regional party \$25,000 to vote against a no-confidence motion in 1988, which his Congress party narrowly survived. Charges were also filed against two other Congress party members under the Prevention of Corruption Act, as well as against four members of the regional Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party alleged to have received bribes.

The bribery charge, which Mr Rao denies, carries a maximum penalty of five years in jail. A hearing has been set for tomorrow. Mr Rao resigned as prime minister in May after his Congress party, hobbled by corruption charges, suffered its worst defeat in general elections. He resigned the party leadership in disgrace in September. — Reuters, New Delhi.

### Oslo bikers' gang bombed

A POWERFUL car bomb exploded yesterday outside the headquarters of a Norwegian motorcycle gang, causing extensive damage but no injuries, in the latest round of a feud between rival Nordic biker gangs.

Police said the bomb exploded shortly after midnight beneath a stolen car parked outside the Oslo headquarters of MC Norway, a bikers' group whose members aspire to join the international Hell's Angels. Police said they were looking for two men believed to be members of the rival Banditos gang. — Reuters, Oslo.

### Zimbabwe strikers face sack

THE Zimbabwean government yesterday ordered thousands of doctors and nurses to end their 10-day pay strike, threatening to sack those who defied its command and to replace them with expatriates. The strikers, through their unions, said they would not heed the call, but were prepared to talk to the government.

An estimated 12,000 nurses and junior doctors have been on strike since October 21, paralysing state hospitals. They are demanding that President Robert Mugabe's government honour last month's pledge to consider their demands for a 60 per cent pay rise and better working conditions. — Reuters, Harare.

### Welcome sight for sore eyes

DAILY "eyerobics" sessions have been introduced in many schools in Singapore. Every morning before assembly, children stand in neat rows in the playground rubbing and rolling their eyes to slow music.

Teachers say the exercises help improve blood, relax the eye muscles and reduce eye strain. Some say they can improve eyesight. — Reuters, Singapore.

# Russia facing revenue crisis

David Hearst in Moscow

RUSSIA'S finance minister, Alexander Livshits, has issued an urgent warning to the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, that state finances for this month are about to collapse. Mr Livshits said that in the first two weeks of the month, Russia's tax and customs collectors raised 3,000 billion roubles (€342 million), only 16 per cent of the sum forecast in the budget.

In his "urgent dispatch" leaked yesterday to a Russian newspaper, he wrote that if this trend continued, federal revenues would be half those budgeted.

Mr Livshits said that would leave the government unable to pay 85 per cent of the state workers' wage bill, the army budget and state benefits. The letter comes on top of a statement from the labour minister, Gennady Melikyan, that the level of unpaid wages owed by the public sector in general has more than doubled to 43,000 billion (€4.9 billion) since February, when Boris Yeltsin promised to pay them back in a month.

When the International

Monetary Fund said last week that it was delaying this month's \$340 million tranche of a \$10 billion loan because it was unhappy about the budget revenues, the administration attempted to bluff it out. Anatoly Chubais, chief of the presidential administration and vice-chairman of an emergency tax commission, said: "The situation will be dramatically changed. There will be no financial disaster." Mr Chubais and President Yeltsin have vowed to use force to solve the problem, saying that pressure on taxpayers will come from law enforcement bodies.

The main cause of the collapse of tax revenues has been the inability of heavy industry to pay. Two-thirds of the 8,500 billion roubles the government did manage to raise in the first two weeks of this month was generated by government borrowing on the domestic market, foreign trade, or selling precious metals and hard currency abroad. Industry is in a state of collapse. Gross domestic product has decreased by 8 per cent this year. Investment fell by 10 percentage points between January and April, 20 from May to July, and 22 in August.

**We are being invited to admire Gingrich and Dole for having had the moral courage to leave their first wives for younger women.**

Mark Lawson

**G2 page 6**

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The Guardian Thursday October 31 1996

# China to lock dissidents

Addressing Hong Kong

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# China quick to lock away dissident

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

**T**AKING less than four hours to judge evidence flimsy even by Chinese show trial standards, a Beijing court yesterday handed down an 11-year sentence against Wang Dan, a former Tiananmen Square student leader who has spent much of his adult life in custody or on the run.



Wang Dan, as seen in 1989, gets 11 years for subversion

Mr Wang, aged 27, was found guilty of plotting to "subvert the government", a charge based largely on selected and sometimes doctored quotations from articles he wrote for newspapers in Hong Kong and Taiwan after his release from jail in 1989. He was detained again last year and held incommunicado for 17 months as authorities struggled to stitch together a case. Among the allegedly subversive statements cited in the Beijing Intermediate People's Court was an assertion by Mr Wang that "freedom of speech under the constitution has become an empty phrase". The prosecution claimed this was false. A guilty verdict in political cases is a foregone conclusion. Mr Wang's father, who criticised the trial as hasty and unreasonable, said: "Speech can't overthrow the government." He said his son would appeal. All such appeals fail. The judgment sent shivers through Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese rule in 2003 days under a Beijing-drafted constitution that bans "sub-

version". Governor Chris Patten said there would be "very considerable concern" about a sentence imposed on a young man for activities which in most places, including Hong Kong, would be entirely legal. It will also disconcert President Bill Clinton, who has been eager to improve ties with China. The US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, is due in Beijing next month. Mr Wang's closed trial extinguishes the last embers of China's tiny dissident movement, completing a cycle of repression that has seen a prominent literary critic, a Nobel prize nominee and a host of other outspoken Chinese jailed or exiled.

"This represents the nadir of China's judicial system in dealing with dissidents," said Robin Murray of Human Rights Watch Asia. "There is no discernible legal ground for these proceedings. The only reason for this trial is that Wang Dan annoys the government and they are determined to silence him." Human Rights Watch said authorities had committed procedural violations in the case. Mr Wang was held for 17 months without access to his family or a lawyer before being charged. Chinese law allows only 10 days. The state-run media hailed the trial as open and fair. "Wang candidly confessed his activities," according to the Xinhua news agency.

Foreign journalists were barred from the courtroom. Police clamped a security cordon around the building and confiscated the film of at least two foreign camera crews. The past year's crackdown coincides with a drive by the president and Communist Party secretary, Jiang Zemin, to entrench his authority amid political uncertainty attending the long dotage of Deng Xiaoping, now aged 92. Jail sentences for dissent in recent months have often exceeded those after the crushing of the 1989 Tiananmen Square student movement. Mr Wang was jailed for four years for his involvement in the 1988 protests and released on parole a few months before completing the sentence. He had initiated "democracy sessions" at Beijing University and became one of the movement's three principal leaders, along with Chai Ling and Wujiakxi, both of whom fled to the US.

# Tutsis fight to head off holocaust



Agathe Dukunda feeds her 11-month-old daughter milk at a camp for Rwandan refugees in Mugunga, Zaire, yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN-MARC BOUQUET

**A**S THE Banyamulenge began descending from the hills to rout the Zairean army, Major-General Paul Kagame — Rwanda's vice-president and the real power in the land — was in Israel. Gen Kagame's visit was partly a shopping trip for weapons, in a country where he was sure of a sympathetic ear. Increasingly, Rwanda's Tutsis draw parallels between their struggle for survival and that of Israel. Gen Kagame attended the dedication of a memorial to the Tutsi victims of genocide at the shrine to the Jewish Holocaust — a rare recognition by Israel of another people's suffering. He heard from the hardline Israeli gov-

ernment about persecuted minorities' right of self-defence. By the time Gen Kagame returned home, others, too, were making comparisons. The Banyamulenge are Zairean Tutsis threatened with expulsion or slaughter by their government, neighbours and Hutu extremists. They have increasingly appeared as a proxy army intent on carving out a buffer zone in Zaire on the border with Rwanda — much as Israel has done in south Lebanon. For Rwanda's Tutsis, it is not merely a fight to keep political control. Like many Israelis, they fear defeat means extermination. Their anxiety is built on recent history and the continued slaughter of Tutsis in eastern Zaire. But, as Israel has discov-

ered, pushing the problem away does not resolve it. While Rwanda's Tutsis can breathe more easily with Hutu extremists and their Zairean cohorts fleeing from the border, the root has done little to diminish the prospect of bloodshed. The threat lies with the same forces that led the 1994 genocide and fled after their defeat by the Rwanda Patriotic Front. Gen Kagame argues that extremists were "ethnically cleansing" Zaire in preparation for carving out a *de facto* Hutu state to wage war on Rwanda. Gen Kagame said: "One sure thing was that after cleansing the whole of eastern Zaire of [the Banyamulenge] they [the Hutu extremists] were going to come

back here. They have been infiltrating, they have been carrying out incursions from Zaire and killing people here. They've been killing survivors. They've been killing local administration people. The idea was to have a 'pure' base, a base where they could operate with freedom, with nobody who is not of their kind." Hutu extremists of the Interahamwe militia joined soldiers from the defeated Rwandan army around the towns of Bukavu and Kamanyola, within striking distance of Rwanda. They became increasingly bound up with Burundi's Hutu rebels in a common cause to overthrow the Tutsi-dominated systems of both countries. The extent of the influence

of Rwandan Hutu extremists in Zaire was laid bare as Banyamulenge rebels fought towards Bukavu. Former soldiers of the crushed Rwandan army were seen controlling road-blocks or working with Zairean troops. With the Banyamulenge claiming to control swaths of eastern Zaire, Gen Kagame is circumspect on any buffer zone. "My priority is not to have a buffer zone, the priority is not to have those militias at all. That would be my major interest," he said. But there is a belief in Kigali that pushing the militias and refugees deeper into Zaire at least puts the problem at arms' length. Gen Kagame objects to Rwanda and Burundi being mentioned in the same

'They've been killing survivors. They've been killing local administration people. The idea was to have a 'pure' base where the Hutu extremists could operate with freedom, with nobody who is not of their kind'

Chris McGreal reports from Kigali

breath. He is not alone among Rwandan soldiers in viewing many of his Burundian counterparts as too extreme and uncompromising in dealing with the Hutu majority. But there is no doubt that the Banyamulenge rebellion has served the interests of both Kigali and Bujumbura. Two weeks ago, Burundi's military leader, Major Pierre Buyoya, looked precarious. Regional sanctions after his July coup hit government revenues and hardened Tutsi attitudes. Maj Buyoya broke a Tutsi extremist credo by offering Hutu rebels unconditional negotiations in the hope that a regional summit would ease sanctions. He failed, but the Banyamulenge have provided him with some relief.

# Pakistan siege saves Islamists

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad reports on the comeback of a party that claims to speak with the voice of the people

**P**AKISTAN'S Islamists are turning into legend their two-day siege of the capital, which exposed the vulnerability of Benazir Bhutto's government and, at the same time, rescued the small rightwing party from the political wilderness. Riot police sealed off Islamabad with barricades and barbed wire, reducing the Jamaat-Islami's "million-man march" on Monday to a prayer in a few thousand faithful that was dispersed by clouds of tear gas. But the Islamist leader was undaunted. "They crushed the sugar cane and all the sweetness came out," Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the Jamaat-Islami leader, told a few thousand of his supporters, mainly students from lower middle-class homes, at a congratulatory rally in Rawalpindi. The crowd roared its approval. The Jamaat-Islami has benefited hugely from its demonstration calling for the removal of Ms Bhutto, hitching the cause of Islamisation to popular discontent with her three-year-old government. "We have become the voice of the people," Mr Ahmed told the Guardian. A month ago, the Jamaat, founded in Lahore in 1941,

seemed condemned to the sidelines. It won just three seats at the last elections in 1993. The rout of its protégés in Afghanistan by the rival Taliban faction was an additional loss of face. But by laying siege to Islamabad for two days, forcing the closure of schools and disrupting normal business, it has proved that for street power, its well-organised cadre are rivaled only by the governing Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The Jamaat started its campaign against Ms Bhutto a few months ago. "As far as corruption is concerned, this is the worst government of our history. The rampant corruption has reached a stage where the economy has failed and the people cannot bear it," Mr Ahmed said. Unlike the other opposition parties, however, the Jamaat will not rest with the removal of Ms Bhutto and the convening of elections. It wants an overhaul of Pakistani society. "This movement is for the awakening of the people. Our objective is that the whole class, which is a class of exploiters, should be ousted from power," Mr Ahmed said. "Our problem is that all our resources are in the hands of

a few who are looting the nation and who have no sympathy for the poor because they are feudals." Although he presents himself as a man of reason, Mr Ahmed has little patience for the activities that take place within the "house of evil", or parliament, and he resigned from the senate in September. "Democracy means nothing in our country because those who are democrats are feudals," he said. Despite the liberal outlook of the country's elite, he said: "This movement is for the awakening of the people. Our aim is to oust from power a class of exploiters." "I think a very vast majority of Pakistanis are true believers. Many people may look free and may not wear *Niqab* [the veil], but in their heart of hearts they are believers." The Jamaat has been calling for the enforcement of a constitutional clause that would require all MPs to show they are pious Muslims. He has publicly warned that there would be bloodshed if Ms Bhutto does not step down, an eventually demo-

crats fear could provoke a return to military rule. Even the PPP has admitted that the Jamaat has added to mounting pressure on the government, but argues that the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) has been equally discredited. "It's not only the Jamaat confrontation with the government, Jamaat has its own struggle for pre-eminence within the opposition as well, so Jamaat has tried to jumpstart opposition efforts against the government," Aitzaz Ahsan, a former law minister and the PPP leader of the upper house or senate, said. Hussain Ahmad Hanif, the PML spokesman, agreed. "There is a pressure on us to perform, as well as to compete with them." Both parties will be put to the test in the coming days as the Jamaat struggles to sustain the momentum for two weeks of protests in the run-up to a women's rally on November 11, and the PML prepares its response. "There will be peaks and troughs, but we will sustain it," said Khurshid Ahmed, the sole remaining Jamaat member in the senate. "We are not in a hurry because we are not merely a political party, we are a movement." Four former Pakistan army officers were convicted yesterday of plotting to overthrow the government and sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to 14 years.

# Jail turns star-gazer into star pundit

Jane Knight in Caracas

**A**STROLOGER José Bernardo Gómez had more than 10 years in Venezuelan prison, followed by social acclaim, on his own astrological charts, but hadn't understood why. Last week the meaning became clear. Mr Gómez was picked up by Venezuela's secret police and thrown into a tiny cell for 18 hours. Then he was interrogated about remarks he made during a business conference earlier this month predicting the downfall and probable death of the president. Freed after a second sleepless night, Mr Gómez,

president of Venezuela's astrological association, has shot to stardom. "I said that President Rafael Caldera is astrologically very marked with the symbol of death," he said. "By June 1997, he won't be heading the country." He predicted that Mr Caldera, who will be 81 in January, will probably die after a brief illness, although retirement is a possibility. An unknown political figure aged between 40 and 50 will become president. Mr Gómez is so certain of the future that he said he would give up astrology if he was wrong. "If by June the president is in good

health and continues with his functions, I'll quit." Months before Mr Caldera was elected in December 1993, Mr Gómez predicted his victory. At that time, he predicted that Mr Caldera's presidency could end "with the surprise of his death". Earlier, Mr Gómez had foreseen the rough timing of two 1992 coup attempts. In a newspaper article in late 1991, he said there would be a violent explosion in January 1992, followed by "great tension" from November 28 to December 31. The coup attempts were on February 4 and November 27. The government's res-

ponse to Mr Gómez's latest prediction has left political analysts questioning an apparent nervousness about the president's health. The interior minister, José Guillermo Andueza, said the astrologer was detained because of the "political implications" of his prediction. But the fiscal general, Ivan Darío Badell, ordered an investigation into the detention. Mr Gómez's telephone has not stopped ringing since he was freed. He now plans to drop individual clients and concentrate on political predictions. "My life has changed in a week," he said. "I didn't know that would happen."

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The Bank gets its way
But there's a catch: it's the wrong medicine

KENNETH CLARKE has got it wrong this time. So far, since inheriting an economy whose prospects were transformed by the post-Black Wednesday devaluation in 1992, he has proved a surprisingly deft chancellor steering the economy on a course of modest expansion and low inflation. Now he is letting electoral politics drive his economic decisions. We hope we are wrong but there must be a deep suspicion that he is raising interest rates now to appease the City in advance of tax cuts in next month's budget. It should be the other way round. If he is worried that the recovery will disintegrate into a consumer boom leading to higher inflation (no one is talking about an investment or export boom at present) then he should be raising income tax at least for a while. This would have the double advantage of dampening consumer spending while reducing the worrying budget deficit. Higher interest rates don't address the deficit but they do risk stultifying investment and exports. Since the first week in August the value of the pound has risen by 7.5 per cent against major world currencies thereby eroding much of industry's new-found competitiveness. From a purely tactical point of view, if he decided to bow — however misguided — to Bank of England pressure to raise interest rates, he might as well have raised them by more if only to quell expectations of a repeat performance. The Treasury can't seriously think that a single 0.25 per cent rise in rates will halt an incipient spending boom. Small wonder, the Federation of Small Businesses was up in arms yesterday. And why is he so worried about inflation? Mr Clarke is supposed to be the responsible chancellor putting economics above politics. Where is the evidence of a wage or price explosion? The world is different now. Globalisation, the information revolution plus

the Government's own labour "reforms" (with attendant job insecurity) have not only changed labour markets but have also overstated the rate of inflation (as when much more powerful computers sell at unchanged prices).

In the United States — even without the debatable benefits of the Thatcherite revolution — unemployment is now down to 5 per cent (as against 7.4 per cent here) without stoking up inflation. Why should we be different over here? In some parts of the US unemployment is down to 2 per cent and even 1.5 per cent. In Britain the Government doesn't publish regional inflation rates so we don't know, for instance, whether East Anglia which has unemployment of "only" 5.7 per cent is suffering higher inflation than elsewhere. Probably not. The point is that unless the Government is prepared to test the waters a bit more, we won't know whether economic expansion could be greater, and unemployment much lower, without generating fresh inflation.

Once again the Treasury is using last year's Bradshaw to predict a future which won't be like the past. For instance, during the next 12 months up to £20 billion in windfall capital gains will be distributed to millions of people by the building societies. Alliance and Leicester announced a £1,000 per member distribution this week. What chance will a 0.25 per cent rise in interest do to stem that being spent? If the Chancellor is worried about overheating arising from consumer spending he should increase income tax rather than raise interest rates at a time when Britain's recently acquired competitiveness is being eroded by a sharp rise in sterling. Of course, if Mr Clarke is secretly preparing for a fiscally austere budget with tax increases, we will eat our words. And chancellors will fly.

Rediscovering there is a Society
At least the Forum accepts life outside the nuclear family

MODERN DAY Moses are rightly regarded with suspicion. Modern day prophets who preach against moral relativism but want to draw up Ten New Commandments for contemporary times should be viewed even more suspiciously. Surely the first rules out the second. If you believe in moral absolutes — and declare your commitment to Christianity — then surely the Ten Commandments should need no modern day amendments. For all these reasons we have had our doubts about Nicholas Tate, the chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA). He has been too ready to link the decline in religion with a decline in moral values which is an insult to humanists; too simplistic in his attack on moral relativism, narrowly defined as do-it-yourself morality; too blind to the need for teachers to warn about the dangers of absolutes and the importance of taking into account circumstances, conditions and culture. Yet out of Dr Tate's Ten Commandment Forum some important lessons have been learned — by Dr Tate among others.

heterosexual married couple and their children. Dr Tate has been robustly defending his Forum's refusal to endorse this one traditional form of family life. How would teachers operate in inner city schools where a majority of their children are from single parent families? Circumstances can be crucial. Perhaps all Mrs Shephard was trying to do was divert attention from the Forum's important interim message to ministers: that schools alone cannot turn the tide in a society where "the real values most promoted today are success, self-interest, wealth, winning, successful deception and not getting caught." If she was, she was unsuccessful as the individual members continued their criticisms of the current government yesterday. One professor of religious education spoke of the gulf between what they were asked to do and "the money-mad society that is affecting every value". Failing families and failing schools were not the only culprits even if ministers were unable to acknowledge their responsibility.

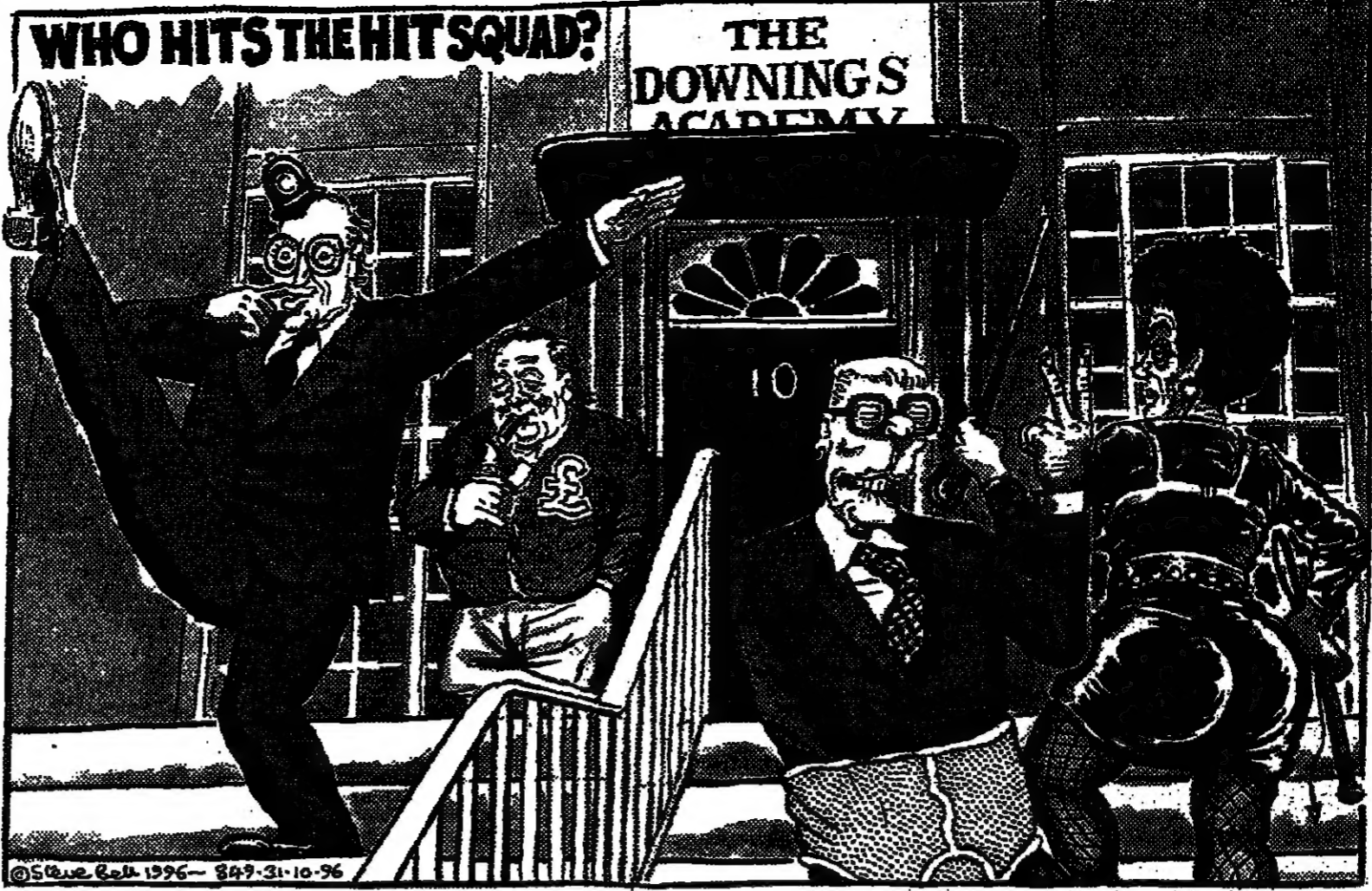
Unlike an earlier prime minister, the draft new moral code recognises not just that there is such a thing as society but the importance of "collective endeavour for the common good of society". Margaret Thatcher's individualistic social order is ruled out. Even more pertinently, so is the modern political phenomenon of "no shame, no blame". On this wish, we are at one with Dr Tate: if only ministers and MPs exposed as crooks, would resign.

Memories of an iron Chancellor
But if he is promoted as a role model, best to run for a bus

INEVITABLY the Great Moral Crusade is now bringing the caners and floggers out of their cupboards. John Major may have hosed down Gillian Shephard, but the Back to the Good Old Days gang on the Tory back benches, determined to cast out cossetting and eliminate the ninny-piminy, may be harder to contain. All the more so, perhaps, once they've read the obituary of Lady Chancellor in yesterday's Daily Telegraph. Sylvia Chancellor was the daughter of Sir Richard Paget, an inventor, who, to test the effectiveness of a sign language he had devised, stuffed the ears of his daughters with treacle. When electricity was installed at the family home in Somerset, Sylvia (aged nine) was chosen to do the wiring. When the girls grew older, their father required them to catch buses along Park Lane and throw themselves off the conductor's platform, backwards. Sir Richard saw this as a test of his theory that the force

of the air behind them would cushion them, ensuring they landed safely. Guardian readers may think such behaviour extreme. Yet, as some Tory MP — our money is on Sir Rhodes Boyson — will no doubt point out, it must be some proof of their efficacy that Lady Chancellor died at the age of 95.

Moral crusaders may be less enthralled, however, by the information which follows. Sir Richard's marriage, it seems, was somewhat semi-detached. The children's mother, Lady Muriel, spent much of her time engaged in good works in Russia. When asked if he and Lady Muriel were by any chance related, Sir Richard used to reply: "Only by marriage." The moral of which, if any, appears to be that while jumping off buses backwards is not necessarily fatal, nor is a fractured family background... Not, of course, Sir Rhodes please note, that the Guardian advocates either.



Letters to the Editor
Rupert's remote control

THE shortcomings of the Broadcasting Bill will leave many consumers on the wrong side of Rupert Murdoch's "global gate" (The keeper of the global gate, October 29).

We argued throughout the passage of the Bill that consumers must be able to access the various digital systems — terrestrial, satellite and cable — without having to buy different set-top boxes.

If consumers are not to end up being locked into an exclusive arrangement with Mr Murdoch or having to purchase several boxes, it is crucial that Ofcom and the DTI have sufficiently strong powers to protect consumers' interests.

We are urging the DTI to ensure all broadcasters have open access on fair terms to a single set-top box. Otherwise, Mr Murdoch's global gate will shut off many consumers' access to the wide range of programmes digital TV will have to offer.

Whether BSkyB or any other Murdoch subsidiary is a successful bidder will soon be known. What cannot be ruled out is the strong possibility of a further sale or takeover of the privatised transmission company in two or three years hence, putting finally in Rupert Murdoch's hands an essential piece of the terrestrial UK and World Service transmission chain.

Now it's here, the UK government has a duty to act to guarantee the common interface in every decoder box. Meanwhile, in the European Parliament, we are urging a rewrite of existing European law to ensure that every broadcaster can reach every citizen on their own terms — in a free, not a rigged market.

RUPERT Murdoch's relationship with BT is more complicated even than Henry Porter implies. An increasing number of Sky viewers are not Sky subscribers: they receive their channels from their local cable company.

The relationship between cable operators and Sky has always been tense. Murdoch would prefer to deliver his

channels direct, without the intervention of third parties, enabling Sky to keep more of the revenues and to promote other services to those viewers. At the same time, BT is having a hard time from the same cable operators. In the areas where cable is available, up to a third of homes now get their phone connections from the competing companies. It would be in BT and Murdoch's combined interests to eliminate them. That's also why BT was offering Sky subscribers special phone deals until the Office of Telecommunications objected.

In House

HUGO Young's article (Howard, the home alone secretary, October 30), stated that, in the Home Secretary's early days at the Home Office he was the subject of an "unprecedented complaint" to the Permanent Secretary by under- and assistant-secretaries in the policy field.

Talkin' about my generation

FOR the last 30 years the media culture and political climate have been dominated by a single, demographically numerous generation. I refer of course to the baby-boom people. The cultural attitudes expressed over this time give the appearance of an extended rite of passage drama. We at whatever next? Please, someone save us from Grey Power before we find ourselves in The Decade of the Oldie.

Romania's attack of amnesia

THE Romanian charge d'affaires, Ion Pasca, (Letters, October 26) whitewashes Romania's record towards the Jews before and during the second world war. Statutes passed in 1938 and 1940 subjected Romanian Jews to systematic state discrimination. Jewish businesses were "Romanianised" and Jews were expelled from the civil service, the army, and cultural life. In January 1941, the Romanian Army presided over pogroms in Bucharest and Jassy in which over 2,500 Jews died.

Thrashing out a policy to deal with delinquent politicians

REITERATE the long-standing policy of the Labour Party on home-school contracts: "We will ensure that written home-school contracts are developed for every school, every parent and every pupil" (No apologies, no regrets, October 30).

IN A COUNTRY where, for centuries, normal methods of child control have embraced legalised non-consensual sadomasochistic abuse, isn't it too hilariously inconsistent for the state now to be defending in Strasbourg its attack upon consensual sadomasochistic adult whose addiction most likely arises from such practices?

The Government, in proposing that home-school contracts be a compulsory part of admissions policies in some schools is in danger of forcing other schools to accept those pupils rejected as a result. If all schools have contracts, we can ensure that the "difficult children" you talk about are covered and not simply those in schools with good parent-school relationships.

It was precisely because Gillian Shephard was unable to answer the logic of this point on the Today programme that she grasped in desperation for the cane, without having discussed her enthusiasm first with the Prime Minister. David Blunkett.

When Denis Patten wrote Cold Lazarus last year, his prophesy was that, in 300 years' time, our media mogul would use of corporal punishment in schools because, as a retired teacher who used corporal punishment — the "Lochgeilly belt" — in Rockwell School for many years, I found it extremely effective in getting recalcitrant pupils to obey orders.

AS A TEACHER you care for discipline. Once caring is institutionalised, one finds that less than 1 per cent of the school population ever need it. Caring with care instils discipline and enhances learning. No wonder African students in Britain do so well. (Dr) O G Agbim. Grosvenor Gardens, London NW11.

I remember belting a boy for throwing a chair and another for carving his initials on a benchtop. But I would gladly have delegated my duty to belt him to a higher authority of a democratic kind if such had been available.

CANING did not do me damage — nor did it do any good. Cautious, in the company of my excluded friends, may have accelerated my descent into delinquency. If teachers need a choice of obscenities to control children, please choose the cane — it's more honest, quicker, easier to recover from and less obscene than exclusion.

I remember belting a boy for throwing a chair and another for carving his initials on a benchtop. But I would gladly have delegated my duty to belt him to a higher authority of a democratic kind if such had been available.

WHAT an unedifying spectacle it has been to witness Gillian Shephard creating a rod for her own back. David Atkinley. 41 The Hill, Croydon, Maffink, Derbyshire DE4 3RF.

Jon Snow: a brother up in arms

I AM shocked to read (Some mother's poor bloody son, October 30) that my brother, Jon Snow, has published a memoir blaming my mother for his inability to form close relationships. She is severely ill with Alzheimer's Disease. She is therefore, quite literally, defenceless in the face of such a ghastly public retribution.

before the great Audubon and other painters of the ornithological scene. Later, as we walked by the Canal du Briare in Burgundy, we came upon a charm of goldfinches. There must have been at least 10, again feeding off thistle-heads, their leaves yellow-gold, their heads drooping, heavy with black seeds. So to our Burran, where yesterday a goldfinch poised on knapweed. Behind were Hawthorn trees, their berries the colour of rich burgundy while further along the hedge holly and rowan berries were beaten to and fro by the surging wind. So I pursued the goldfinch to Keats.

A Country Diary

THE BURREN, IRELAND: We walked up 1,400ft in the Vosges Mountains of Alsace and down again from Hungerplatz to the valley of Andlau. We sat in the sun to eat our picnic. Near us was a fine patch of thistles and then we saw the flash of a pair of goldfinches, perching so lightly that the thistle-heads scarcely moved. Moreover they took not the slightest notice of us, so busy were they pecking and devouring the seeds. Some days later I was startled to see in the Dominican church in Colmar another goldfinch! I was looking at the Virgin of the Rose Buses and there among the roses was the bird, immortalised by the painter, Schongauer (1473), perfect, the red facial mask distinctive. When I looked even closer I saw a great tit with its black ventral stripe and yellow eyebrows, all birds of the region, all depicted centuries

from low hung branches; little space they save. But sip, and twitter, and their feathers sleek. Then off at once, as in wonted fash. SARAH POYNIZ



Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.



Diary

Matthew Norman

WELL, we've done it. Today, a fortnight after the campaign began, Kenny Blair resumes his rightful place on television. He will appear live, with trumpet but without Jazzmen, at 2.30pm on British Talk Back, on satellite channel Granada Talk TV (that's Channel 21 for those with cable). Kenny was jubilant yesterday, generously crediting the Diary and its loyal army of readers ("It's very nice of them to write in for me, and please thank them all.") for his renaissance. "Mind you, they'll be seeing plenty of me. I've put on a bit of weight since I was last on TV. That must have been in Germany last year, then in Ireland at the Cork Jazz Festival. I like the Irish and Germans like me better than the English." What a savage indictment of the British disease (build 'em up, knock 'em down) that he should be appreciated abroad but not at home. But the tide has turned. Kenny is back.

THE spirit of the Key-Rings lives on in Harford, where PCs Ray Bambrugh and Stanley Goodin have, according to Police Magazine, made a challenge for the next Police Bravery Awards. The constables were summoned to a case in which a man named Ian, who was in a gas-filled room, while holding a box of matches. Deciding on immediate action, both charged at the locked door. PC Bambrugh slipped and ruptured his Achilles tendon, while PC Goodin, swinging his boot at the door, also slipped and landed on his colleague, breaking his own arm. Not great policing, perhaps, but splendid slapstick. Helmets off to the pair of you!

ALTHOUGH not broadcast here until December, Andrew Davies' adaptation of Moll Flanders has already gone out in the States. However, the PBS network was so shocked by its raunchiness that Davies managed to have Moll involved in a runaway 17 times, including a lesbian scene not included by George Eliot — that it removed all the sex, while those stations courageous enough to show the sexy version caved in on the question of actor Christopher Fulford's testicles, and blotted them out in the style of Crimewatch disguising someone's face. Mr Davies is controlling any artistic distress. "I don't really care what they do in the States," he says, "but I'm sure Chris Fulford isn't too proud. They're notoriously funny about body parts over there. What American telly needs most is English bollocks. I'm relying on Mary Whitehouse to back me up."

NEWS reaches us of a resurrection. In the Style section of last week's Sunday Times was an article about the dangers of liposuction, illustrated by a large picture of a Brazilian model. "Too high a price: Claudia Ric, who died following liposuction," said the caption. Is this the same Claudia Ric we wonder, who has featured widely in the Brazilian press since leaving hospital, having come out of a coma induced by an allergy to anaesthetic, on October 18, nine days before the Sunday Times article? It's a miracle, a miracle.

LEADING New Labour activist Max Clifford calls regarding our celebration of the Sun's exquisite wording on its story about the woman who alleges that Geoffrey Boycott beat her up. "Margaret, 44, made her allegations during a meeting at a London hotel with publicist Max Clifford," it said with glorious innocence. Max was simply named "The wonderful, Mrs X117," he says, "especially because of the coincidences." And what were these? "Well, the water looked like the image of Stewart Higgins, the Sun's editor, and the doorman was the absolute spit of Nell Wallis, the deputy editor."

Advert in the personal column of Disability Now magazine grabs the eye. "Frenchman now retired," reads, "would like to correspond with a one-legged woman. Age and nationality unimportant."



# Watch the flight of the left-arm spinner

## Commentary

Hugo Young

WHEN Kenneth Clarke says that Britain must keep open the option of joining the European single currency in 1999, he is commonly described as a crazy Europhile. When Tony Blair says that Britain must keep open the option of not joining the single currency in 1999, he is declared to have joined the Euro-sceptics. Although there is a nuance of difference between these positions, deriving from where they're coming from, it is as nothing to the vastness of the ground the two men share. Both insist that the future cannot be foretold, and that the formal British attitude must therefore remain undecided. Yet the epithets applied to them are exactly the opposite. No wonder the great British public finds it hard to warm to the obsession the political class has with economic and monetary union (EMU), or join the fanatical scrutineers who see the earth being shaken every time a senior politician says a word about

it. It is, admittedly, a subject on which the leaders are often more interested in promoting confusion than clarity. The dissembling, as opposed to the persuading, arts of politics are much in evidence. The words spoken in public tend to be instantly, often previously, qualified or doctored or somehow unclarified by words not spoken at all — that is to say, by the gloss placed upon them by unseen paladins of spin. Keeping the policy options open seems to mean keeping the verbal usages opaque. If there is doubt about attitudes to EMU, it is because the spokesmen prefer it that way. All the same, what happened to an interview Robin Cook gave on Sunday took the lengths of the modern perils of the double-take, perhaps the triple-take. Mr Cook, who is already fixed as the chief sceptic in the shadow cabinet, was almost universally judged to have taken his scepticism further than ever. He'd said it might not be possible for sterling to enter EMU in 1999. He'd emphasised all the difficulties ahead. He'd pushed Labour sharply into the sceptic camp. It all added up to a crucial exercise in political positioning. And as a sub-text, Robin Cook had scored vital points in his unceasing rivalry with Gordon Brown, who is well known, we're told, for holding an entirely different position. I've no doubt that this ver-

sion was assisted, either before or after the interview, by the resident spin maestros attached to the offices of both Cook and Brown. It will certainly have caused Cook no displeasure to see a series of sceptic headlines reinforcing perceptions of the Labour attitude. In crude electoral terms, that will be judged thoroughly helpful. It is also important to us journalists never to be caught under-estimating the shadow cabinet's propensity for civil war. But the story was misleading, both in particular and in general. The rage to find shifts and differences distracts from a more interesting truth. In particular, Mr Cook, a politician blessed with the most reliable verbal dexterity in the Commons, took care to avoid saying that entry in 1999 was becoming impossible. He said the Tories' economic record made convergence difficult to reach. He reiterated that the consequence for jobs would be the prime test EMU had to pass, though not as a formal post-Maastricht "criterion" only as an essential objective. It would be "a hard job, not impossible, but a very tough job" to get Britain ready. But he said with equal strength and no sucking-in of breath, about the dangers to democracy, no lethal murmuring on the matter of central bankers and their lack of accountability to the House of Commons. With the possible

impeccable performance, lining Labour up cheek-to-cheek with the fence with Kenneth Clarke. But saying otherwise is not just a travesty of the text in front of us. It is more largely misleading. If there is an antithesis between the "sceptic" Blair-Cook position and the "phibic" Clarke, it is the reverse of what has been widely implied. Clarke's fence-sitting is thought to conceal a secret agenda to take Britain in. Yet in truth Clarke is far less likely than Blair ever to be able to achieve that. All the evidence suggests that the Tory party will never permit it in 1999, whereas Blair's party, though now suddenly cast as sceptic, would certainly be able to do so. If the terms were right, and if the leadership pressed the button, the critical mass of support could be assembled under Tony Blair in a way that is unimaginable under John Major.

### Consider Cook's interview. From Labour's supposedly leading sceptic, it was a muted performance

If you doubt this, consider the full scope of Mr Cook's interview. From Labour's supposedly leading sceptic, it was a muted performance. At no point did he raise a single objection to EMU in principle. He had every opportunity, but failed to take it. There was no word about sovereignty, no sucking-in of breath, about the dangers to democracy, no lethal murmuring on the matter of central bankers and their lack of accountability to the House of Commons. With the possible

exception of Mr Clarke, no Conservative politician would ever have tried to get away with it. No present minister, even one who favoured the economic case for EMU, would be capable of giving an interview on the subject without ritually bowing to Parliament, registering the uniqueness of the pound sterling, kissing the arse of British nationalism.

It is quite likely that, come six months in office, a Blair government will make the judgement that it wants to still longer to see what kind of EMU seems to be emerging. There is plenty of talk now about the plausibility of averting continued positive commitment to EMU, while waiting until 2001, or 2002 when the actual single currency comes into being.

In that circumstance, remaining as close to the inside of influence and argument will obviously be a continuing British priority, but one from which poor Mr Clarke, the Tory Party's viceral phobia, win or lose, will soon have excluded it. What we learn from the latest flurries is the opposite of what we are told. Deconstructing the spin, one discovers that Labour alone is capable of submerging the politics into the economics of EMU. The economics may be a mature contempt for such a tough call. But cool judgement of the economic case is fatally hindered by the kind of political fundamentalism that Mr Cook, Mr Blair and Mr Brown are united in upholding. This is not a cosmetic but a fundamental difference between the parties. One of them straining all the time for distance from Europe, the other developing a mature contempt for such a fantasy. It could even become a difference big enough to justify Mr Blair asserting that the election was won, among other things, on the European question.

# Yes, Carmen, there is some good fiction



James Wood

RHETORICAL questions are phrasal boomerangs: they may hit their senders on return. On Tuesday night, at the Booker Prize ceremony, the publisher Carmen Calli, in the middle of a complaint about certain critics, asked this question: "Why put up with a critical apparatus which would like Nick Hornby's High Fidelity to be set in Chicago and written by Saul Bellow?" Should this critical apparatus approach you, my advice would be to surrender to its charms; it is difficult to imagine a nicer conversion. Calli spent much of her speech attacking those critics — including this one — who have in recent years denigrated the English novel. She argued that such denigration had more to do with post-imperial depression than with any objective knowledge of the contemporary English novel; that American fiction had been widely over-estimated at the expense of English fiction; and that English fiction was in "good shape".

She is broadly right. As I argued in this paper in July, a generation of young English critics discovered the excitement of American fiction at the very moment — the mid-1980s — that English fiction was beginning to find itself. Furthermore, the American fiction that seemed so exciting was not, at least for me, the newest writing. It was not the rich reduction of a Raymond Carver, but the rich imitation of older writers such as Bellow, Philip Roth, Thomas Pynchon and Eudora Welty, that seemed so alive to us. There is no doubt that against this American achievement, from about 1950 until about 1985, or against the adventures of the French nouveau roman, English writing has looked impoverished, provincial, and timidly academic.

But Calli is right when she says that praising American writing became automatic. Of the new American writers who were introduced to English readers in the early 1980s, probably only Raymond Carver will last. Meanwhile, as everyone can see, English fiction now has many talented writers working within it. It is easy to forget the literary atmosphere of the early 1980s, when it seemed that Britain's intelligentsia was inordinately proud of having produced the work of David Lodge, Julian Barnes and William Boyd. But these are not serious writers, and it is the business of critics to say

so, even as it is the business of publishers to moisten the Frankfurt Book Fair with glistening superlatives. If, as both Calli and I agree, English literature is exciting at present, it may be partly because some of the critics Calli complains about established a context within which such superlatives could no longer go unexamined.

It is important that the critic does not succumb to rapid local enthusiasms. The publisher's function is to sell — as Carmen Calli did admirably on Tuesday night; as her firm Virago did admirably over many years, rediscovering all kinds of neglected writers, as Calli did less admirably two years ago in the Daily Telegraph when she called the novelist and near-narratographer Helen Zahavi a writer of "real genius". The publisher is always, as it were, at a party, yelling out encomia; the critic's task is to measure the horizon, and see how we fit it. It is to take a longer view — Dr Johnson suggested 100 years as posterity's test. But to name two writers of the many fine writers living in Britain, I'm certain that both Amit Chaudhuri and Alan Hollinghurst will write great novels in the next 20 years.

MY own view was re-ordered by the experience of judging the Booker Prize in 1994, where we had to choose a winner from two fine novels, Hollinghurst's *The Folding Star*, and James Kelman's *How Late It Was, How Late*. I do not think that we're overdoing with great writers; but it seemed to me then that a literature that could produce, in one publishing year, two such books (crucially, books with real verbal excitement) did not need help from critics.

In her speech, Calli appears to confuse those critics who have been less than polite about English fiction with certain writers who have recently been seen killing off the novel. Earlier this year, George Steiner suggested that fiction could not now compare with the best reportage; meanwhile, VS Naipaul has renounced writing novels, and English writers are not threatened by rude English critics, who live within its familial hoop; it is threatened by those who do not believe in fiction. They are many, and they include those publishers who would rather publish memoirs than new novels; those newspapers who have turned book reviewing over to anonymous diarists; and those magazines and journals that used to run interesting new fiction and now publish "personal accounts".

It is one of criticism's tasks, along with praise and patience, to correct; to remind us all that as Keats wrote in a letter of March 1819, we live and work amongst "that most vulgar of all crowds, the literary."



We are back with the worst of 40 years ago, argues Larry Elliott: authoritarian policy backed by the threat of punishment, but without the underpinning of a just economy

# Back to the 1950s

EVER since the 1963 Royal Variety performance, the days when John Lennon felt able to poke gentle fun at the Queen, there has been a deep yearning in Britain for a return to the respectful 1950s. Those were the last days of glory, when a British-led team made it first to the top of Everest. Jim Laker took 19 wickets at Old Trafford to dish the Aussies and Stanley Matthews won the cup for Blackpool. Now it looks as if the 1950s are coming back: or rather, one bit of the 1950s. What we are not getting is the full employment, the progressive taxation and the determination of an interventionist state to use active welfare policies to reduce the gap between rich and poor. What we are being offered instead is social authoritarianism, a crackdown on law and order and discipline in schools; a willingness to tell people how they should conduct their relationships and bring up their children. This combination of the free-market economics of the 1980s and the social policy of the 1950s is being sold as a cure-all solution to society's ills. But this is not a social policy, nor even a moral policy. It is a policy of cut-price

containment — a cheap way of coping with the middle-class fear that a burgeoning "underclass" is out of control. The underlying analysis has some merit. Crime has doubled since the 1970s, almost half of new marriages end in divorce, there is a hardcore of disruptive pupils who do not want to learn. Once, politicians would have looked for an economic answer to these problems. However, the main political parties make only a token show of disagreeing on the

politicians have to argue about something, so the emergence of an economic consensus has left a space that is now being filled by moral posturing and naked populism from both sides of the political fence. Some of the signs of a 1950s revival were implicit in the abortive Back-to-Basics campaign of three years ago, when the Government attempted to reassert its authority after the economic debacle of Black Wednesday. But what is different this time

parents to teach their children the difference between right and wrong is by no means the whole agenda. There will be pressure for tougher laws on abortion, and before long almost certainly calls for the ideal family unit to be made up of one male breadwinner and a wife who stays at home to care for the children. Just like the 1950s. The good thing about this strategy is that it is cheap. Delivering little homilies to someone on income support or poverty wages on how they should live their lives costs the better-off nothing. The bad thing about this Back-to-the-Future scenario is that it has not a hope in hell of solving the problems of the breakdown in civil society. Stand back a second from the sense of moral panic that the politicians have stirred up, and what we see is not the inheritance of the permissive society but the inevitable consequence of an economic system built around exclusion, alienation and greed. As the American writer EJ Dionne puns it in his new book: "It

### The ideal family unit will be made up of one male breadwinner and a wife who stays at home to care for the children

is that Labour's adoption of a more authoritarian social policy stance has legitimised the drift to the right. So while the first phase of the campaign in education was the seemingly non-controversial lionisation of the Three Rs and the demoralising of "trendy teachers", the debate has now moved on to the desirability of restoring those other symbols of the 1950s — corporal punishment. Similarly, women should be aware that the emphasis on family values and the need for

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# Finance Guardian

## City cheers, industry fears Clarke rates rise ambush

### Ploy 'threatens to snuff out recovery'

Richard Thomas  
Business Correspondent

**C**ITY dealers hailed yesterday's interest rate rise as a "gutsy" pre-emptive strike against inflation and sent the pound spiralling to new highs on the foreign exchanges.

With the Square Mile unanimously expecting the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to brush off Bank of England requests for monetary tightening, analysts said the element of surprise had enormously increased the impact of his move.

John Sheppard, chief economist at brokers Yamaichi, said: "This is a gutsy move. Mr Clarke has adopted Bundesbank-style ambush tactics, set when everyone least expects it and you get maximum reaction."

By the close of trading, sterling had risen by three pence against the German currency at DM2.4636, and by over two cents against the dollar at \$1.6323.

Market-watchers said the 0.5 per cent rate rise to 6 per cent had fuelled an already strengthening pound, but warned that sterling's new-found heights would hit exporters by pushing up price tags on goods sold abroad.

In the short term the stronger pound is bad news for industry, said David Coleman, UK economist at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. "But it was going up anyway, this just pushed it along."

Industry leaders lined up to criticise Mr Clarke's decision to expose deeper borrowing which they said threatened the fragile manufacturing recovery.

In Fletcher, economist at the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "We are very worried this may snuff out the very recent recovery in manufacturing and companies' investment plans. Exporters in particular will be

hit as their competitiveness suffers."

Small businesses stressed the impact of dearer money on plans to borrow for expansion as the leading high street banks immediately jacked up their lending rates.

Describing the rise as "extremely bad news", Federation of Small Businesses spokesman Stephen Alambritis said Britain's minnow companies would pay an extra £100 million a year to service their overdraft facilities.

"It is a retrograde step for small businesses which have, in any case, been very late in taking advantage of consumer recovery," he said.

The Confederation of British Industry said the increase had taken boardrooms by surprise — especially given subdued price pressures — and warned the Chancellor not to use the decision as an excuse for big tax hand-outs in next month's Budget.

"It is vital Mr Clarke follows this move with a very prudent Budget to reduce the need for further upward moves," a CBI spokesman said.

City analysts were divided over whether yesterday's policy tightening marked the beginning of a new period of base rate rises — or was simply an attempt to cut the risk of a politically damaging increase nearer to polling day.

Gifts rose sharply after the late-night announcement, but then eased back during the afternoon as markets trimmed their expectations of future tightening.

Mr Coleman said the decision meant that further increases were off the agenda. "Perhaps Eddie George produced some unanswerable argument which persuaded the Chancellor, but I am quite surprised."

The lone voice in favour of higher rates has belonged to Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, but even he said: "I am a bit surprised because there is an election coming up."

Mr Clarke has won a reputation for bucking expert advice through his disagreements with Eddie George. Since the last rise in rates in February 1995, Mr Clarke has withstood repeated demands from the Bank of England governor



Kenneth Clarke on his way to Millbank TV studios to explain his 'gutsy' move

### Notebook

## Matter of political nous as well as economic verities



Mark Milner

**I**F THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, has to vacate number 11 Downing Street after the next election he might consider sending his curriculum vita to the Bundesbank. Yesterday's decision to raise interest rates by a quarter point caught markets and commentators on the hop in the way so beloved of the German central bank.

Indeed, Mr Clarke's comments as to why he decided on a base rate hike — "firm grip on inflation" — sustain this well into the future — might have been penned by the Bundesbank council at its most austere.

The only snag is that the governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, argued against the latest rate rise (in June) and has subsequently argued that they should go up — without, until yesterday, any success. Suddenly, Mr Clarke is a convert.

The Chancellor would not doubt grip on inflation — sustain this well into the future — might have been penned by the Bundesbank council at its most austere.

Indeed, the whole interest rate debate has been conducted more in terms of a pre-emptive strike, rather than as a response to an existing problem. City analysis and commentators have been divided over the question of whether or not rates needed to rise on economic grounds, though they were much closer to unanimity on the political issues.

Here is the rub. The suspicion lingers that the fine judgment involved in yesterday's decision owed something to politics as well as, to be fair to Mr Clarke, to economic ones. It is not too hard to construct a case for suggesting that yesterday's meeting with the governor was the final realistic opportunity to push up rates before the elections and that there are sound political, as well as economic, reasons for a touch on the tiller of monetary policy.

Take the first part of that contention; that this was Mr Clarke's last chance. The next in the regular series of meetings between Chancellor and governor is scheduled for December 11.

Mr Clarke is astute; even if he were not his advisers would be quick to warn him of the Scrooge headlines which would inevitably follow a rate hike so close to Christmas. From there it is but a small step to the new year, and then downhill all the way to the election. Pre-political periods are not the time Chancellors who want to keep

their jobs make borrowing dearer.

But why move rates at all if it involves political risk? Mr Clarke says he has been persuaded by the latest GDP and retail sales data, the housing market recovery and survey evidence that the economy is experiencing a broad pick up in activity and therefore needed to act. That is fair enough. Nor should the strong sterling argument be overstated. A fair bit of the pound's progress might well prove to be froth, rather than fundamental strength.

A cynic might add, however, that Mr Clarke may be calculating that the improvement in the feel-good factor concomitant with the recovery is strong enough to sustain the impact of a rate rise. Thus, the Chancellor is offered the chance to be economically responsible without hitting his party's electoral prospects.

It could even improve them. Think for a moment of tax cuts. The economy has taken the back seat in the political debate of late. The Queen's speech focused on areas like education, crime, health care and social security in the areas where the Conservatives believe they can establish clear differences with Labour.

It is not so long ago, however, that Tory backbenchers were arguing that only tax cuts (and plenty of them) could win them next spring's election. Come Budget Day they will still be looking to Mr Clarke to deliver.

The Chancellor himself has been at pains to talk down expectations but there may be a sense that in doing so he will increase the impact of any fiscal loosening he feels able to deliver. Having primed the voters not to expect too much (so they will be more pleasantly surprised by anything he has to offer) Mr Clarke also has to reassure the financial markets that he is not overdoing the generosity. What better way then to surprise them with a pre-Budget rate hike they had believed had been excluded from his agenda by political considerations?

If that was Mr Clarke's intent, he has succeeded brilliantly. The pound soared on the foreign exchanges, analysts talked glowingly of Mr Clarke's enhanced credibility. More to the (political) point, building societies have made it clear they do not see the quarter point hike as reason to push up mortgage rates.

There has been a downside. Big bits of British industry, not least exporters, are unlikely to be thrilled by the combination of dearer borrowing and an even dearer pound. The British Chambers of Commerce expressed concern, the Confederation of British Industry expressed surprise, though the Institute of Directors raised an anti-inflationary cheer.

Mr Clarke also got one from Mr George who "very much welcomed" the move. The governor would be less cheery if yesterday's rate hike is more than offset by fiscal relaxation. Then again Mr Clarke might just reckon credibility is electorally better than tax cuts big enough to be attacked as bribes. A fine judgment, indeed.

### Eddie vs Ken

Interest rates need to be raised sooner rather than later

By George Jones 7 1995

The case will be stronger than I've seen in the inflation target without some further rise in rates. But the case for an immediate rise is not as strong as it once was.

By George Jones 12 1995

By George Jones 12 1995

## Chancellor at odds with advisers

Sarah Ryle

**K**ENNETH Clarke ignored the advice of most of his independent economic advisers that base rates should be kept on hold, it emerged last night as they registered shock at the increase.

The conflict between the Chancellor and his six panelists will be disclosed tomorrow when their regular report — which went to press as the rise was announced — is published.

Professor Patrick Minford, of Liverpool University, said: "It is a serious mistake which could threaten the recovery."

Kate Barker, CBI chief economist, said: "It is surprising. Short-term inflationary pressures are relatively weak and manufacturing is still fragile."

Bridget Rowe, director of Business Strategies, said: "Perhaps Eddie George produced some unanswerable argument which persuaded the Chancellor, but I am quite surprised."

The lone voice in favour of higher rates has belonged to Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, but even he said: "I am a bit surprised because there is an election coming up."

Mr Clarke has won a reputation for bucking expert advice through his disagreements with Eddie George. Since the last rise in rates in February 1995, Mr Clarke has withstood repeated demands from the Bank of England governor

to tighten monetary policy to meet the 2.5 per cent inflation target.

The row blew up in May last year when Mr Clarke overruled Mr George to leave rates at 6.75 per cent. Given his warnings, Mr George surprisingly supported the cut to 6.5 per cent in December 1995. Two more 25 basis point cuts followed, in January and March, before the conflict re-emerged in May.

Then, the Bank's quarterly inflation report said it was "more likely than not" that Mr Clarke would miss his target. He cut rates again anyway in June.

Mr Clarke admitted yesterday that he and Mr George argued over the timing of a rise during the summer. "I've agreed with Eddie this morning because we both agree that the time has come to make sure this recovery continues at a proper level — that it doesn't get brought to a halt by inflation in 18 months, two year's time."

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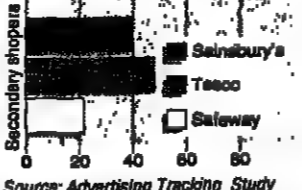
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### Fight for the fickle shopper

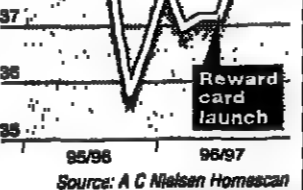
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Source: Advertising Tracking Study

### Loyalty to Sainsbury's, all shoppers, %

Reward card launch



Source: A C Nielsen Homescan

## David Lloyd leaves Whitbread

Ken King

**D**AVID LLOYD, Britain's Davis Cup tennis coach, parted company with Whitbread yesterday just 14 months after Mr Lloyd said his leisure business to the brewing and hotels group in £200 million and agreed to help run it.

The separation follows a fierce battle over the running of the business between Mr Lloyd and Whitbread's chief executive, Peter Jarvis. Whitbread is thought to have reprimanded Mr Lloyd about his attitude.

Although Whitbread tried to put the best gloss on the break-up, close colleagues of Mr Lloyd said the move had been inevitable, adding that there had been a rift between the two parties for some months.

In a statement, Whitbread said Mr Lloyd would be concentrating on new business ventures in Australia and China, and on his commit-

ment to Britain's Davis Cup team. It is understood that Mr Lloyd, who was on a three-year rolling contract, earning a reported £240,000 last year, will not receive any compensation.

Mr Jarvis added: "David Lloyd Leisure has prospered under our ownership, and I am confident that it will continue to develop successfully."

"On a personal note, I shall miss David's contribution and am sorry that we must part company. Any differences between us were more of style than of substance, and I wish him well in his new activities."

When he sold his fitness and leisure empire to Whitbread, in September last year, Mr Lloyd — who made an estimated £30 million from the deal — agreed to remain with Whitbread as chairman and

chief executive of the business.

However, things soured when Whitbread passed day-to-day management of the concern to a three-man team led by its managing director, Steve Philpott.

A former colleague of Mr Lloyd said last night that the news came as no surprise.

He added: "David wanted to run the business one way, while Whitbread wanted to develop it and put in Whitbread-style management. Monumental clashes of personality between entrepreneurs that set up businesses, and the big company managements that buy them, are not unusual."

Apart from his tennis activities, Mr Lloyd recently became a non-executive director of Clubhaus, which runs golf clubs and courses across Europe. It is believed Mr Lloyd may help diversify its activities into other areas of the leisure market.

Whitbread shares closed up 4p at 720 1/2p.



The way they were... David Lloyd and Peter Jarvis

## Pru insists it's working hard to make pensions redress

Richard Miles

**P**RUDENTIAL, the UK's largest life insurance company, yesterday defended its poor record on redress for victims of personal pensions mis-selling after it was revealed as the worst offender in a secret report by the Personal Investment Authority.

The report, revealed by the Guardian three weeks ago, shows less than £27 million has been offered in compensation to people who left company pension schemes. The total redress bill is estimated at £2 billion.

The report shows the Prudential has completed 10 assessments out of 41,000 priority cases and names 25 other companies as offenders, including Co-operative Insurance, Pearl Assurance, Legal & General and TSB.

A Pru spokesman claimed yesterday that the report underestimated the efforts of its 150-strong review team to contact 683,000 investors. "We are working as hard as possible to ensure this review is completed quickly," he said.

Legal & General, whose former chief executive, Joe Palmer, chairs the PIA board, has completed only 648 assessments, the report says. "Our efforts to provide redress are frustrated because not all pension schemes are able to give us the costs of reinstatement to their schemes," said the company. There were 6,000 information requests outstanding.

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Canada 2.11	Hong Kong 12.13	New Zealand 2.22	Sweden 10.40
Cyprus 0.7165	India 57.39	Norway 10.04	Switzerland 1.85
Denmark 8.11	Ireland 0.9855	Portugal 239.70	Turkey 248.85
Finland 7.22	Israel 6.26	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.5740

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

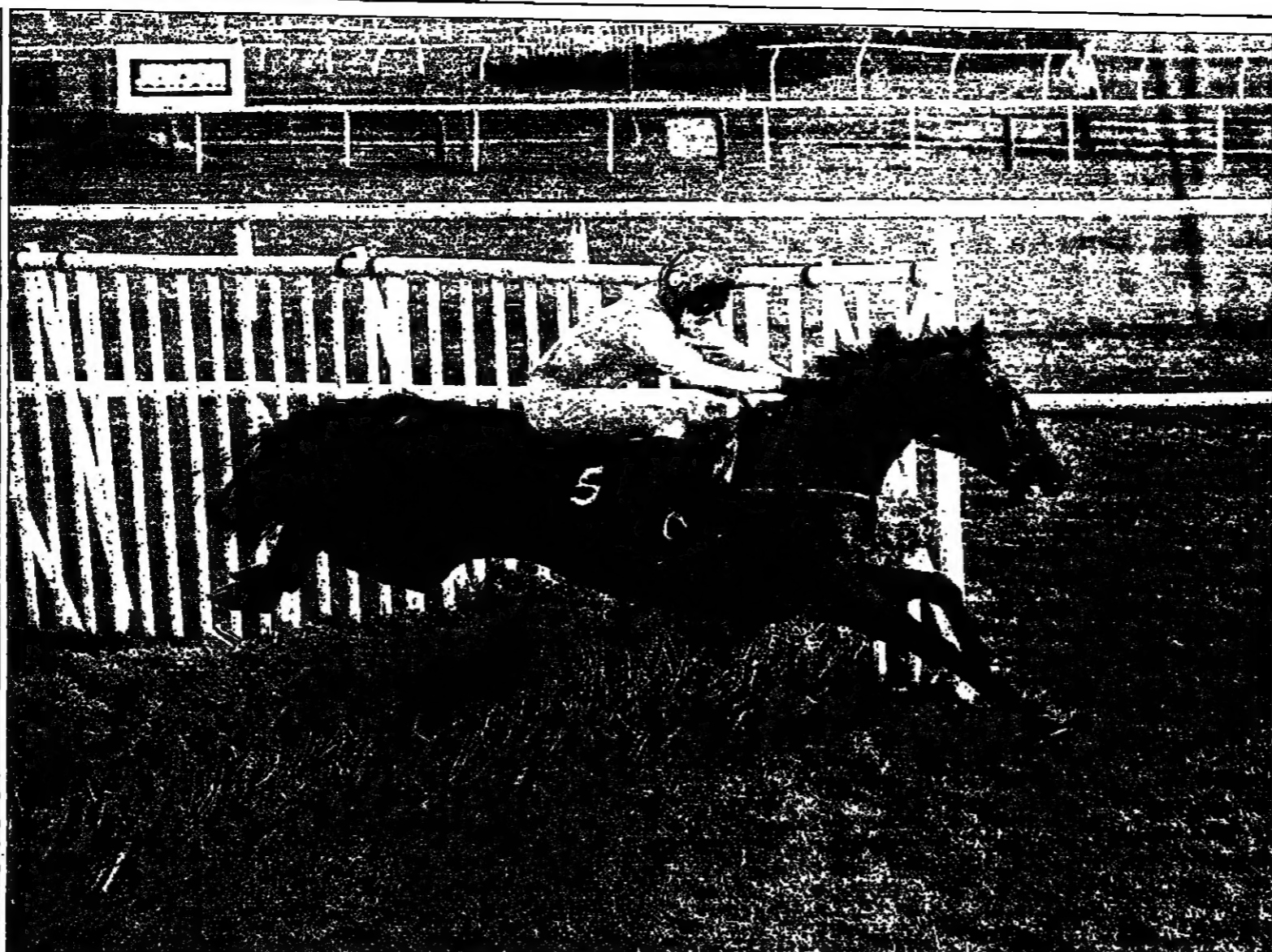






Cricket
Skipper Wells is sacked

IAN WELLS has been sacked as Sussex captain and replaced by the wicketkeeper-batsman Peter Moores. The 35-year-old Wells was given the news when he returned from holiday in Barbados this week. The timing of the decision is significant. Under Test and County Cricket Board rules counties are not allowed to approach players from other counties without permission until October 31. Essex were due to talk to the all-rounder Jimmy Law, today and Ian Salisbury and Martin Spaight are wanted by Surrey and Durham respectively. The decision to appoint the popular Moores has been made in an attempt to keep the side together but they could now lose Wells, still their average batsman. He said last night: "The way Sussex have handled the whole affair has left me with a very bitter taste in my mouth. I have treated me with a lack of respect. I don't know what my future holds but I'm sure I've got another five or six years left at the top level and, if the phone rings, I'll be there."



Triple jump... Tony McCoy clears the last flight on Courbaril at Cheltenham yesterday to complete a quick three-timer

Mandilak win marks the Aga Khan's return

AFTER an absence of six years, the Aga Khan's colours returned to a British winner's circle when Mandilak landed the Narworth Maiden Stakes at York yesterday. The winner was one of a batch of 12 two-year-olds the Aga Khan sent to Luca Cumani this year, having ended his self-imposed exile following his disqualification over Jockey Club drug-testing procedures in the wake of the disqualification of his 1989 Oaks winner Allysa. Cumani, who trained Kalyasi to win the Derby for the Aga Khan in 1988, said: "It's marvellous to see these colours win again. It's been a long wait. Most of the Aga's two-year-olds with me are bred to stay and are three-years-old."

Racing
Japan Cup option for Singpiel

MICHAEL Stoute has turned down an invitation to run in the Japan Cup on November 24, but Singpiel has entered the reckoning. "Pilsudski has finished for the season," said Stoute yesterday. "But Singpiel has now been invited and we've got until Monday to make up our minds." "It doesn't give us much time and it is a question of how he seems after Woodbine. At the moment it's too early to tell but Japan would be a very long journey for him considering he's been to Canada twice within a few weeks." He's also been invited for the Hong Kong Vase which is thought unlikely to run by Simon Crisford of Godolphin, make up the European invitation list. Geoff Wragg is still in charge of Pentire but the colt will remain in Japan after the race to take up stallion duties next year. Elle Lellouche has accepted on behalf of Heliiso no that the touted match race with Cigar has apparently fallen through. Bill Mott, Cigar's trainer, seems fairly certain that the American super-horse has been retired but one can never be sure where owner Allen Paulson is concerned. Incidentally, I now see that the "armchair experts" are getting down to work and doing their best to belittle Cigar. Three defeats in his last four runs came as no surprise to them, of course, as he had always been over-rated by the hype merchants. Times and figures men believe they have a monopoly of wisdom. Lesser mortals who are plagued by sentiment and soul mistakenly attach significance to guts and charisma in a horse. The way successive champions are knocked is becoming boring and we are led to believe that Heliiso beat little in the Arc. Hailing looks good going past trees, Nashwan was nothing to get excited about and Desert Orchid was the best of a bunch of plodders. Returning to the Japan Cup, Oscar Schindler's participation obviously depends on how he fares in next Tuesday's Melbourne Cup. If he does not have to head a race he could well go to Japan but if he wins, one thing is certain, the Australian handicapper will not be spared. A characteristic of the Australians is that while they like a bit of competition, they always like to win. Local trainers believe Oscar Schindler has been thrown in at the weights and have already started whinging in earnest, something I thought only the Poms did. Saeed bin Suroor scored with his only runner at Yorkmouth yesterday, Happy Valentine, and extended his lead over Henry Cecil in the trainers' championship to over £21,000. The Godolphin team can go further in front today with Easy Option (1.30) at Nottingham.

Nottingham card with guide to the form

Table of racing cards for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Sedgefield (N.H.)

Table of racing cards for Sedgefield (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and odds.

Stratford (N.H.)

Table of racing cards for Stratford (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and odds.

Clydesdale Bank advertisement with logo and text: 'Clydesdale Bank PLC announces with effect from close of business on 30th October 1996 its Base Rate has been increased from 5.75% to 6.00% per annum.'

Results section for various races, listing winners and their details.

Results section for various races, listing winners and their details.

RaceLine advertisement for PAUL Kelloway's Goodwood Cup second, Lear White, mentioning a season account in the St Legger Italiano.

Advertisement for a snooker cue, mentioning 'key have a fatigue' and 'O'Sullivan exposed'.



Soccer

D-day for Gascoigne as Hoddle decides

Martin Thorpe

DECISION on whether Paul Gascoigne should be included in the next England squad will be made today following final talks between the coach Glenn Hoddle and Keith Wiseman...

tional at this stage, which is down to Glenn, and whether the totality of the surrounding circumstances makes it appropriate for him to play for England...

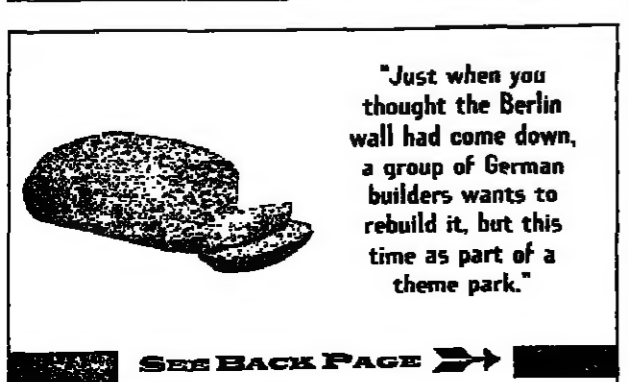
Full house just the ticket for Evans

Ian Ross finds why cheaper European package deals are paying off at Anfield

ANFIELD will be bursting at the seams this evening for the return leg of Liverpool's Cup Winners' Cup tie against the Swiss from FC Sion...

Robinson is offered Hull for £1

DON ROBINSON'S £1.5 million bid to regain control of Hull City has been turned down by the chairman Martin Fish...



Odds against... the Rangers defence comes under pressure from the combined assault of Kluyvert and Babangida at Ibrox last night

Champions League, Group A: Rangers 0, Ajax 1

Scholten ends Rangers interest

Patrick Glenn

ARNOLD Scholten, at 33 the oldest player in a team of prodigies, struck a blow for the wrinkles with a beautifully-controlled 25-yard drive that gave Ajax a victory...

and they were, characteristically, in no hurry to justify the pre-match expectation that they would rush the Scots into submission.

right and Robertson on the left making no pretensions to being "wing-backs". Their assignment was simply to stay close to Babangida and Overmars, the free spirits on the Ajax flanks.

more embarrassing mess of his opportunity when he played the ball in to Scholten from the right and the latter back-heeled it back into his path.

pathy for their opponents or their own lethargy. But their failure to impose themselves as authoritatively as they had before the break should have brought Rangers an equaliser with almost an hour played.

First Division: Norwich City 1, Sheffield United 1

Adams rescues Norwich

Trevor Haylett

HOWARD KENDALL has always had a soft spot for Carrow Road. He clinched the First Division championship there with Everton and, on another occasion, saw his Manchester City side defy relegation.

showed the Welshman was hungry to add to his tally. Norwich were contributing fully to an open, fast-paced contest but it was United who made the next worthwhile attack count.

increasingly United were forced to retreat but they offered Kelly good cover, and a wealth of Norwich possession on both flanks was convincingly swallowed up.

Wolverhampton W0, Huddersfield Town 0

Toothless Wolves see no end to that goal famine at Molineux

Peter White

THE inability to find the net at Molineux again cost Wolves dearly last night. For all their efforts, particularly in the second half, they failed to pierce a resolute Huddersfield defence.

Hamburg, went close for Wolves from the edge of the area on 15 minutes, and shortly afterwards the German hit a low shot through a crowd of players, only to find the Huddersfield goalkeeper Steve Francis perfectly positioned to gather.

Stan the man for Villa fans

SUPPORTERS of Aston Villa want the Liverpool striker Stan Collymore to replace Savo Milosevic, who flew to Italy yesterday to complete a £4.5 million move to Perugia.

showed that 40 per cent wanted him ahead of Celtic's Pierre van Hooydonck (37 per cent), Teddy Sheringham, Emile Heskey and Dean Holdsworth.

increasingly United were forced to retreat but they offered Kelly good cover, and a wealth of Norwich possession on both flanks was convincingly swallowed up.

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, Rugby Union, Tennis, and other events.

Table of sports results including Golf, Ice Hockey, Snooker, and other events.

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Forest in bid to end year from hell

Martin Thorpe on four routes to salvation for the troubled club

THIS week the nation's trees were battered by a mini-hurricane. But in Nottingham they were busy grappling with the problem of falling points.

Each bid promises to lift Forest back to the top. First will come transfer cash to help avoid a repeat of the relegation they suffered three years ago.

Through successful on the pitch for the past two seasons Forest's finances have been drained by building a £5 million stand at the Trent End and the upgrading of players' contracts after promotion from the First Division in 1994.

All will include in their prospectuses various promises to tempt shareholders into selling to them, including money for players, money to clear the debt, a £20 million flotation, a new main stand and a substantial cash offer to buy the 209 shares which, uniquely, are held, one each, by shareholders, who include the seven-man board.

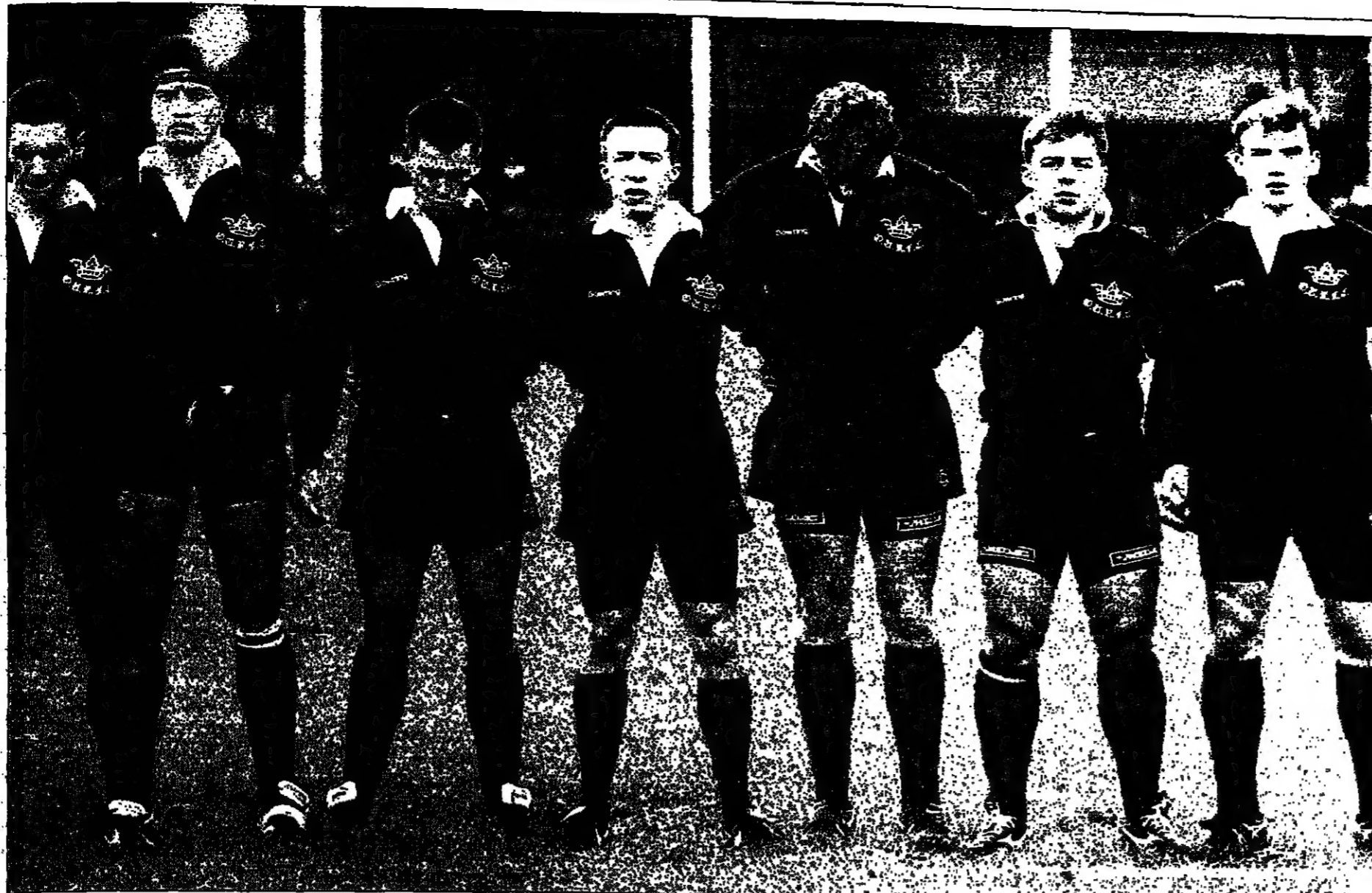
Bovey is promising £24,000 for each share plus a free season ticket for five years; Scholar, £12,000 each and new shares in the club.

But doubts have already been raised. Bovey's real financial worth has been questioned, though he points out there are other wealthy people in his consortium. And Scholar, nearly led Spurs to bankruptcy. However, Lewis, one of Britain's richest men, appears to be the business brain of the consortium with Scholar, says a statement to "act as a consultant on footballing matters". And, it added, he will continue to live in Monaco.

The Football Association yesterday denied reports that it would want to investigate Scholar's transfer dealings at Spurs before it would let him become involved with another club. So, along with the nation lies in the cheque-book of one of these four groups.

Large advertisement for a clothing brand, featuring a woman in a dark dress and the text 'Amuted Oxford's', 'Indisay c', 'Super n', and 'Mercury Smart'.





A team in mourning... the Dark Blues find it difficult to compose themselves before yesterday's Stanley's XV match as they remember their team-mate Ian Tucker

# A muted win to follow Oxford's terrible loss

Robert Armstrong on the sombre shadow over Iffley Road

It would be contentious to make direct connections between the death of Ian Tucker, the 23-year-old Oxford University centre, and the notable absence of passion in yesterday's annual match against Major B V Stanley's XV at Iffley Road.

filled Tucker's midfield place, was forced to come off on the hour after a heavy collision but thankfully his injury was nothing more serious than a damaged shoulder. Though the Oxford players had been offered psychological counselling in the 48 hours before the game, it was evident they were making a

conscious effort to keep their minds firmly focused on rugby rather than the grievous loss of a friend. Death on the field of play is mercifully rare even in the unprotected world of rugby, which shuns the headgear and shoulder-padding that are standard in American Football. Yesterday the thunderous big hits, now commonplace in Courage League One, were virtually non-existent, perhaps because the majority of players in action on this occasion were smaller and lighter than the top storm-troopers of the new professional game.

death, mentally or otherwise. I know we didn't play the way we normally do today. The international referee Ed Morrison, who wore a black arm-band on his yellow shirt, was quick to beckon the physiotherapist on to the pitch each time a player stayed down or required medical attention. However, the subdued atmosphere and the smallest crowd of around 1,000 combined with the practice-session quality of the forward exchanges to dampen the more aggressive instincts of the competitors. Not a single punch or act of foul play was seen throughout the 80 minutes. Ironically it proved difficult at one stage to recruit enough players for the

Stanley's XV which depends heavily on the goodwill of senior clubs in allowing their release. As Stanley's organiser Simon Halliday admitted: "Most of my usual overtures were blocked by aggressive rugby directors, penny-pinching agents and hardening attitudes." The fixture is in real jeopardy. Yesterday Stanley's XV may not have been of the highest quality, as their defeat suggests, but they were skippered by Australia's former World Cup captain Nick Farr-Jones, who flew in from Paris to play. Farr-Jones will attend this morning's service at Keele College in memory of Tucker, a fellow Sydney-sider who also played for that city's university team.

## Rugby League

# Lindsay claims Super strength

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE 12 Super League clubs are increasingly taking control of their own affairs while continuing to stress that they are not breaking away from the game's main body. Rugby League (Europe), established six weeks ago to run and promote Super League, should soon have its own general manager, marketing and media staff and its own premises - helped by finance from central funds.

"Next week we are expecting £1 million of our £3.5 million contract with the BBC and we have £25 million to come from Silk Cut's sponsorship of the Challenge Cup. This is, on top of other sponsorship from CIS, Asics and Isostar and is all in addition to the \$87 million from

Sky which goes straight to the clubs.

"The game has never before had income on this scale and 1997 will bring us even more. We have already begun planning our international calendar for next year and there are some great initiatives." Details of the second Super League season are expected to be announced next week but it is understood that all 12 clubs will be involved in trans-global matches as part of the domestic season.

Chris Caisley, the Bradford Bulls and RLE chairman, said: "The World Club Championship will be one of the most exciting concepts put forward in this country. Super League can look forward to an outstanding year."

Wigan have reported a profit of almost £128,000 but admit that they still have financial problems. The latest figures cover the period to May 31, 1995, during which Wigan won the Grand Slam and the World Club Challenge.

# Tollett asked to return in farcical twist to Lions' tale

Andy Wilson in Christchurch

TULSEN TOLLETT will give the Lions' tour a further farcical twist when the London Broncos' half-back, one of the 11 players ordered home last week to cut costs, retraces his steps as emergency cover for tomorrow's third and final Test against New Zealand.

Fortunately for the overstretched balance sheet Tollett had travelled only as far as Sydney, where he has been visiting his parents and girlfriend, but he will still have only 24 hours to prepare for a possible Great Britain debut. Even now Tollett is unlikely to start the match. Bobbie Goulding could yet play with the help of a painkilling injection for his ankle injury, which again prevented him training yesterday. If he is ruled out however, last year's hero will switch to scrum-half and Karlie Hammond move to stand-off.

Phil Larder, the Lions' coach, said: "We were hoping that we would not need to send for Tulzen but in our current injury situation we have no choice. At the moment there is no way I could name a team for Friday."

## Tennis

# Becker goes ape

Richard Jago in Paris

BORIS BECKER, who along with the world No. 1 Pete Sampras yesterday joined the list of top names hustled out of Paris Open, launched into an impassioned criticism of screaming spectators after losing 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 to Spain's Carlos Moya.

Less than 72 hours after defeating Sampras to win the Stuttgart Open, Becker was beaten by the world No. 24 and spectacularly losing his temper, too. Two hours later Sampras joined him on the casualty list, which includes Goran Ivanisevic and Thomas Muster when he was blasted out by the 1992 Olympic champion Marc Rosset.

Becker said of his match: "I felt we were two gorillas with the other animals all around us. There was constant screaming and moving around. You can't hit a small ball with a small margin of error with this going on. I am shocked and disappointed and don't know if I'll be back."



Rattled... an angry Becker heads for early defeat in Paris

About 18 months ago the ATP altered its guidelines to allow spectators to move around and encourage their involvement. Here the noise was always distracting and frequently indiscriminate and ill-timed. Yet it was surprising that Becker was unable to handle it. It confirmed the impression created by his sluggish serving and backhand driving - such a force in Stuttgart - that he was tired.

Six times he changed rackets, three times he bashed them on chairs and regularly he complained to the umpire. Two double faults cost him the first set, and even after he lifted himself to win the second, Becker was too fearful to turn the third around.

Moya was using a patient through the distractions but did launch a ball into the upper tiers of spectators after seeing Becker's forehead drive to close out Becker. Not long afterwards there was further cacophony as Becker was joined by the world No. 3 Muster, who retired with an injured hip against the Swede Stefan Edberg, and by Sampras.

Rosset served 30 aces in his 6-4, 6-4 victory and Sampras said: "He's 6ft 7in and it feels like he's slamming on you all the time. When he gets his serve going, you just pray for rain."

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## Sport in brief

### Sailing

The Royal Yachting Association, stung into action by the disgrace of finishing last in the 1995 Admiral's Cup, has included three Atlanta silver medalists - John Merricks, Ian Walker and Ben Ainslie - in Britain's team for next year, writes Bob Fisher.

The non-sailing captain Richard Matthews and the former captain Graham Walker have put together a team of boats designed by the New Zealander Bruce Farr. Walker's Corel 45, Indulgence, fills the "big boat" slot and the ILC-40 will be Pigs in Space, which has just been bought by Tony Buckingham. Tim Barrett's Mumm 38, Bradamante, completes the team.

### Cricket

Saim Malik with an unbeaten 72, steered Pakistan to a three-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the first of three

### one-day internationals in

Quetta after Wasim Akram became the first bowler to take 300 wickets in one-day internationals when he trapped David Houghton leg-before with the fourth ball of the match. Zimbabwe owed their 237 for nine largely to Baby Jake Matlala in June, 1994, which he lost in nine rounds. Ampofo had three more championship fights before the board told him to resign.

### Soccer

Guy Scherrer, chairman of the French first division club Nantes, has resigned "for personal reasons". Some members of the board recently accused him of never consulting them on important issues.

### Rugby Union

The Northern Transvaal centre, Denis van Schalkwyk has a groin injury and has withdrawn from South Africa's squad to tour Argentina, France and Wales next month. Dick Muir of Natal takes his place.

## Rugby Union

Tour match: Scotland A 20, Australians 47

# Little worry for Wallabies

Gordon Lyle

AUSTRALIA may be rebuilding after a miserable Tri-Nations series but there were ominous signs at Galashiels yesterday that they will again be formidable opponents as they began their tour of the British Isles.

Disrupted by early injuries to Jason Little and Michael Brial, they took an hour to settle and shake off a persistent Scotland A side, among whom the loose-head prop Tom Smith and open-side flanker Murray Wallace could tomorrow be given their first caps against the tourists on Saturday week at Murrayfield.

But these Australians, once into their stride, demonstrated that they have not lost an eye for the try-line, even though they do not quite possess the aura of some of their recent predecessors.

Unfortunately only time will tell how large a part Little will play on tour. He has damaged knee ligaments and, although an initial prognosis suggested he could be playing again within 10 days, the coach Greg Smith put it nearer three weeks. "If we need to get another player we will ask for one," he said.

It is a measure of the Wallabies' strength in depth, however, that one option would be to move the wing Tim Horan to centre, where he spent most of his 46-cap Test career. The Australians will be reluctant to take that step in view of Horan's success in his new role, which was underlined yesterday with two of their

five tries. Not that that was enough to satisfy the coaches. "I can't keep making excuses for people," Smith said. "They are earning a lot of money and should be able to catch and pass the ball without dropping it. I've told them that many times. I always tell the truth."

The Scots were eight points ahead after only 11 minutes with a drop goal from Duncan Hodge and a try by Smith. Matt Burke kept the tourists in touch with two penalties but 36 minutes had passed before they put their noses in front through a try by Horan.

Hodge and Burke proceeded to trade penalties until Burke decided to break the pattern on 56 minutes when, following Horan's crossfield run, he stroled in at the corner and added the conversion.

Stung into action, Scotland A then enjoyed their best spell, culminating in a penalty by Hodge, but Australia refused themselves inside the first quarter when Horan, Sam Payne and Andrew Connors scored tries, all converted by Burke.

SCOTLAND A Squad (Wales): A. Stanger (Hooker), M. Gray (Prop), J. Brown (Lock), J. Kerr (Prop), J. Ross (Prop), J. Murray (Scrummer), P. Wallace (Wing), C. Hogg (Flyhalf), J. Peacock (Fullback). AUSTRALIA Squad (New Zealand): T. Horan (Centre), J. Little (Centre), J. Horne (Centre), J. Ross (Prop), J. Murray (Scrummer), P. Wallace (Wing), C. Hogg (Flyhalf), J. Peacock (Fullback).

## Ian Mallin on the favourite as England captain

# Dallaglio the leading man

ENGLAND's coach Jack Rowell will name his new captain at Twickenham next Tuesday, a day before the side to play Italy on November 23 is announced at a squad session at Bisham Abbey.

The front-runner for the man to succeed England's most successful captain Will Carling is Lawrence Dallaglio of Wasps, who won his first cap only a year ago as a replacement in the side that were beaten by South Africa.

The 24-year-old Dallaglio, who took over as Wasps captain 12 months ago when Dean Ryan decamped to Newcastle with Rob Andrew, takes his club side to Milan for a European Cup tie this weekend. Lawrence Brown, Nero Dallaglio would be an appropriate choice to lead England against the land of his father.

Rowell and his fellow selectors made their choice of captain a month ago but deliberately kept his name a secret from the player and even the Rugby Football Union committee because of the prolonged dispute between Twickenham and the clubs.

Rowell hopes to avoid putting Carling's successor in an invidious position of being asked to comment on the feud. But now he has no option but to give the newcomer at least a couple of weeks to settle into his job.

By coincidence it was Guy Lawford who was Guy Lawford when Carling began his record-breaking run of leadership which ended last March with him victorious in 44 of his 53 internationals in charge.

Other candidates for the captain's job are Phil de Glanville, the Bath centre and skipper, Jason Leonard, who is leading Harlequins in a highly successful season, and Northampton's flanker Tim Rodber. But of that trio only Leonard is assured of being named in the team next week and prop forward is a far from ideal position from which to lead a side.

But meanwhile, seem close to securing the signature of their first major overseas signing, Federico Mendez, the Argentina hooker currently playing with Natal, watched the champion's demolition of Bristol on Tuesday night.

League Two Richmond yesterday confirmed they are negotiating with Mendez's Natal team-mates, the South African internationals Cabous van der Westhuizen and Steve Atherton.

Richmond's coaching director John Kingston said last night: "We enjoyed the benefit of talks with Mendez. We already have a very good side but they need quality players and we could not interest. Maybe sooner rather than later."

Van der Westhuizen, a wing, and the lock Atherton flew to England after helping Natal to their Currie Cup final victory over Transvaal last weekend. Bath have also expressed an interest in Atherton.

## Cotton calls for expulsion of leading clubs from RFU

Ian Mallin

FRAN COTTON, the former England prop who will manage the Lions in South Africa next summer, yesterday called for the leading clubs to be kicked out of the Rugby Football Union.

The RFU and English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, the body which represents the top two divisions of the Courage League, made representations to the clubs in Northampton yesterday as the bodies seek to end their long-running dispute over the financing of the newly professionalised game.

Cotton, who has been critical of Epruc this season, is angry that the organisation, having said it will release its contracted players for internationals this autumn, wants to prevent those players appearing for divisional sides.

Queensland, New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina are all touring England, at great expense to the RFU which has said it is considering playing League Three and Four players against them in divisional games.

Cotton says that denying players divisional opportunities could jeopardise their chances of England call-ups.

"I also read comments from Sir John Hall (Newcastle's owner) saying that, when he has obtained the support of the European Courts, he will contact all his friends and arrange Epruc's departure from the RFU."

"So what are we waiting for here? According to their spokesmen, these clubs have no wish to be part of the RFU and appear to me to be in breach of RFU bylaws. I can't see why they should not be expelled so that the rest of the game can get on with running its affairs in a sensible and affordable way."

"I feel that the RFU should make it clear that these games are England trials, as was agreed earlier in the year, and that, if clubs prevent their players from supporting the divisions, they are effectively preventing them from wearing an England jersey at any level."



# SportsGuardian

## DEFEAT AT OLD TRAFFORD

Champions League, Group C: Manchester United 0, Fenerbahce 1

# United Europe in disarray

David Lacey

**M**ANCHESTER United's 40-year-old, 56-match unbeaten home record in Europe finally fell to a Bosnian at Old Trafford last night. Elvir Bolic's late goal won a famous Champions League victory for Fenerbahce to throw United's hopes of making the quarter-finals into utter confusion.

Having started slowly and then missed several chances, United were undone in the 77th minute when Bolic produced a dipping shot from the edge of the penalty area which cleared Peter Schmeichel and then dipped in under the bar after taking a deflection of David May.

Heavy defeats, 5-0 and 6-3, by Newcastle and Southampton could hardly be described as little local difficulties but at least last night found Manchester United returning to the principal theme of their season. Alex Ferguson has made no secret of his desire to add the Champions Cup to his manifold successes.

On the evidence of their confident, composed 2-0 defeat of Fenerbahce in Istanbul a fortnight earlier United had little to fear last night except, to coin a phrase, fear itself. But without Pallister in defence and still missing Giggs in attack they needed to tread with care.

With Cantona flanked by Poborsky and Cruyff, the Fenerbahce defence was always likely to become sufficiently stretched to leave inviting gaps for the runs from midfield of Beckham, Keane and Butt.

Yet a similar formation had laboured against Juventus in Turin and after a briefly promising start Cantona's unsuitability for the central role, though less evident in Istanbul, was again apparent. The Turkish champions



Fleeting moment... the United winger Poborsky evades the Fenerbahce midfielder Tuncaç at Old Trafford last night

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

gained in confidence. Okocha, Fenerbahce's wily, skilful Nigerian, had dominated the early part of the game in Turkey and he was the instigator of their initial attacks last night.

But the first serious scoring attempt at either end followed Erol's cross from the left. Kemalettin's volley skimming the crossbar to remind United of their new mortality. They were forcing corners

at regular intervals, however, and from one of these should have taken the lead midway through the first half but Cantona, with only Rusu but shot wide of the far post. Now Manchester United

were looking slightly dishevelled and less sure of themselves. At least the defence looked sound, but the passing was becoming a muddled mixture of the predictable and the plain inaccurate.

Increasingly Cantona was drifting deep, which is more his natural game, but this meant that when United did catch Fenerbahce on the break support for the man in possession was often lacking up front. There was a glimpse of something better two minutes from half-time. Now Beckham decided to take on the defenders near the 18-yard line and caused sufficient confusion to set up a half-chance for Cantona which the Frenchman hooked just wide.

There was a greater urgency about Manchester United in the second half. Cruyff had been moved into the middle, allowing Cantona to drift into some old familiar spaces, but their passing still

lacked its usual snap and crackle. The match badly needed a goal. In the 52nd minute it nearly saw one at either end. First Tuncaç, found in space on the left by Kemalettin's crossfield ball, drove the ball low into the goalmouth where Kostadinov slid in to waft it over the bar. Then Rusu's diving body thwarted Butt, who had been sent in by the ball. Poborsky had threaded through Fenerbahce's cover.

Two minutes later Cruyff, racing through on the left, gathered a return pass from Cantona before driving the ball past the far post. At last Old Trafford began to sense a goal.

**Manchester United:** Schmeichel; G Neville (P. Neville, 87), May, Johnson, Irwin, Beckham, Keane, Butt, Poborsky (Sotkjaer, 67min), Cantona, Cruyff (Scholes, 87). **Fenerbahce:** Rustu; Ibar, Uche, Sarfil, Erol, Hozeh, Okocha, Kemalettin, Tuncaç (Mustafa, 75), Bolio (Tariq, 82), Kostadinov. **Referee:** M Van der Ende (Netherlands).

## Claret and blue — sport's true colours



Frank Keating

**J**OHN ARLOTT's beloved and battered briefcase was auctioned in London on Tuesday evening. The brown-leather, one-handed 1950s job, monogrammed with a faded J A, was as much a part of John as his voice was to the nation in summer. It fetched £230.

It was almost an extension of his right arm: in the mornings heavy, in the gloaming light. It was cavernous enough to hold, at a pinch, four bottles of wine — but three comfortably ensured the Ryvita would be uncushed, along with the generous hunk of cheese (treat of treats, Dorset Blue), an onion, a penknife, the vine-root corkscrew and the current *Playfair* Annual.

As the scuffed and evocative relic went under the hammer at the end of a sumptuous dinner in aid of the Arlott Memorial Trust, graced by Princess Anne and hosted by the late and still mourned renaissance man's favourite Rioja wines from Spain, it inspired a secret toast to that wholesome trinity of the Gs — good games, good grub and the goodness of the grape.

And, by golly, we needed it in a week which began with those two footballers Ian Wright and Matthew Le Tissier going public about their pre-match diet.

Said Wright, appalled at being told by Highbury's new French manager to cut out his routine Mars bars: "He's put me on grilled fish, grilled everything, even grilled broccoli, yuk."

On the very same Sunday Le Tissier was admitting that his club's new nutritious pre-game regime put him in a quandary because he could abide neither fruit nor vegetables, so he would occasionally sneak into McDonald's and, "to be honest, given the choice, I'd be straight round the corner to the chip shop for a couple of battered sausages".

As a man of Hants and particularly one who loved and lived in the Channel Islands, Arlott would have relished Le Tissier's football if not his diet.

On the other hand, at Tuesday's glittering banquet for his trust — which, so dear to his good old heart, aims to regenerate village communities

with affordable housing and sports fields — the simple wine-cheese-and-onion gourmand Arlott might have found the menu too gluttuously rich — glazed seafood ravioli for starters, followed by *médailles* of venison — although he would have approved of the accompanying honest bottles from Spain, respectively a '95 Muga Blanco and an '89 Martinez Bujanda Reserva.

On these very pages Arlott, doubling as correspondent of both wine and cricket, "discovered" Spanish wines and his columns championed them until his death in December 1981. One might say he did for Rioja (as well as Ian Botham) what his friend and predecessor Neville Cardus had done for Mahler (and Archie MacLaren).

J A would not turn down a fliz during the opening overs; nor a hair-of-dog schooner of Spanish *fino*. Whatever the bristace would pop open and the curly corkcreeper be withdrawn around noon for the pre-prandials. Then the game out there effectively could be said to have begun.

**W**HAT would have had Arlott taking a reflective slug near the footballers' dietary revelations, not so much their preferred food but the fact that it had to be washed down before kick-off with "a couple of plants of Lucozade Sport". This concoction is all the rage, whether through addiction or made compulsory by sponsorship. The other day there was even a young journalist in the pressbox sucking at a tube of it.

Part of rugby's disastrous revolution has been to succumb to the white-coated nutrition biffins. It seems an age away now that one saw England's hooker Brian Moore tuck into his pre-match staple — a stout and few Alp-high platefuls of mashed potatoes on to which he would pour rivulets of onion-gravy. A fellow pack-leader, the grand Irish Lion Moss Keane, was a "stout and double omelette" man. (In New Zealand once the waiter inquired: "What sort of Guinness and omelette, sir?" "A black one and an egg one, of course," came the reply.)

The Welsh lock from Aberavon Max Wiltshire would not even put on his beloved red shirt unless he had had a massive lunchtime curry. In that same team mighty Brian Thomas of Neath would eat nothing from Friday night to kick-off, but bunch after bunch of grapes.

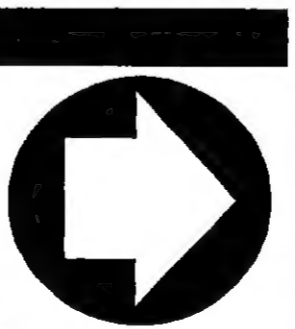
Arlott would have approved of Thomas. Though he would have suggested fermenting them first.

## BECKSENTRICS

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF EUROPE'S FREE THINKERS



PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

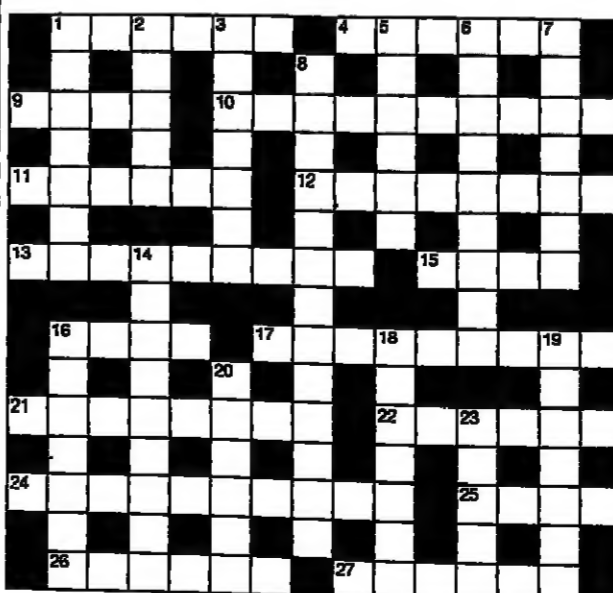


And where are all these calm, caring, cool-headed spankers anyway? Almost every time I visit the supermarket I witness some harassed and frustrated parent yelling at an errant child: "You stop that right now or I'll belt you." Francis Wheen

G2 front

## Guardian Crossword No 20,798

Set by Rufus



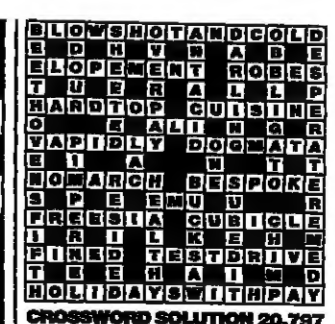
### Across

- 1 Vegetable causes a girl to come out with a rash (6)
- 4 Personal property includes unusual tea set (6)
- 9 Not a pointed rebuff (4)
- 10 Red Admiral flutters around on the football field (4,6)
- 11 Disciplined for making wrong sound (6)
- 12 They don't work for money (4,4)
- 13 It simply outlines the position (6-3)
- 15 Slough farm building perhaps (4)
- 16 Bearing of an ex-president? (4)
- 17 Digs for a convalescent? (3-6)
- 21 Paper thrown at the match (8)

- 22 One may take it as a safe place (6)
- 24 Little may be seen through it (10)
- 25 Strikers attempt to return (4)
- 26 Agrees to change gun ammunition (6)
- 27 High spirits? (6)

### Down

- 1 Conducted a bag search (7)
- 2 Clear a computer program? (5)
- 3 Cancel score (7)
- 5 Lots follow second test (6)
- 6 Hold rates collection in garrison town (9)
- 7 Showed how even CID can be manipulated (7)
- 8 One in charge of a WWII flying-bomb (8,5)
- 14 Service men who have a job to do (4,5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,797

- 16 Some reservation about giving a player a yellow card? (7)
- 18 Wave on a doctor (7)
- 19 Highest form of fractions (7)
- 20 Assist in stoppage (6)
- 23 It isn't true it comes to a moral conclusion (5)

### Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0991 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ADS

Handwritten scribble or signature at the bottom of the page.